

Hafa Adai!

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NMDC opposes extending public land leases. **PAGE 9**

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Saipan-made film about WWII in Marianas debuts

Many gather at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center last Thursday to witness the premiere of a short film produced by Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

An original short film that was nominated for several awards at the 2017 Guam Film Festival premiered at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center last Thursday to high-

light discussions on the Marianas experience during World War II.

The film's director, Mount Carmel School principal Galvin Deleon Guerrero, said he went ahead and decided to showcase his short film as part of the NMI Humanities

See WWII on **Page 4**

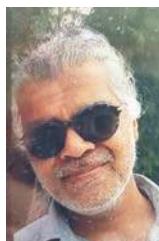
'Every citizen has right to vote'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Did you know that, if you live in the Northern Mariana Islands but used to live in a state in the U.S. mainland, you have a right to vote for President by absentee ballot? It now appears that the administration of U.S. President Donald J. Trump is planning to strip

previous state residents of this ability—which Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) opposes, saying every citizen has a right to vote.

See **EVERY** on
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'No indication Saleh left Saipan'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There are no indications that missing lawyer Jamal A. Saleh has left Saipan since
See **SALEH** on **Page 4**

Navy ship name sought for Iwo Jima photog

By JULIET WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

The iconic image of six Marines raising an American flag over Iwo Jima on Feb. 23, 1945, is recognized around the

world, credited with boosting morale at a critical moment of World War II, and generating
See **NAVY** on **Page 4**



In this Feb 23, 1945 file photo, U.S. Marines of the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, raise the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan. On Monday, Oct. 9, 2017, which would have been Joe Rosenthal's 106th birthday, a group will deliver their petition with over 2,000 signatures and a letter requesting a future USS Joe Rosenthal to Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer, who is responsible for naming ships. AP

INSIDE



LOCAL

Bank of Guam hosts a brunch mixer for the Saipan Young Professionals.

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NATION

An enraged President Trump and a Republican senator engage in a Twitter fight.

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LIFE & STYLE

Harvey Weinstein is fired from The Weinstein Company.

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Beatrice Fihn of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, speaks for a press conference, at the headquarters of the International campaign to abolish Nuclear Weapons, ICAN, in Geneva, Switzerland, on Friday, Oct. 6, 2017.

AP



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Local

Group opposing nukes wins Nobel peace prize

By JAMEY KEATEN and MARK LEWIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSLO, Norway (AP)—The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, a forceful show of support for a grassroots effort that seeks to pressure the world's nuclear powers to give up the weapons that could destroy the planet.

The choice of the little-known coalition of disarmament activists put the Nobel committee again at the forefront of geopolitics at a time when fears are rising over North Korea's nuclear and missile program and the invective it has drawn from U.S. President Donald Trump.

The committee cited the tiny, Geneva-based ICAN for its work that led to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that was reached in July at the United Nations.

The group "has been a driving force in prevailing upon the world's nations to pledge to cooperate ... in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons," Norwegian Nobel Committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen said in the announcement.

More than 120 countries approved the treaty over opposition from nuclear-armed countries and their allies. In a statement issued after the Nobel was announced, the U.S. reiterated its position that the treaty "will not result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon."

The treaty requires all ratifying countries "never under any circumstances to develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices." It also bans any transfer or use of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices—and the threat to use such weapons.

The nuclear powers oppose the treaty, which goes well beyond existing nonproliferation agreements, arguing that they alone should have the weapons in order to support stability in the world.

The U.S., Britain and France said the prohibition wouldn't work and would end up disarming their nations while emboldening what U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley called "bad actors." They instead suggest strengthening the nonproliferation treaty, which they say has made a significant dent in atomic arsenals.

ICAN, a coalition of 468 nongovernmental groups from over 100 countries, says that argument is outdated.

"This prize is really a tribute to the tireless efforts of many millions of campaigners and concerned citizens worldwide who have, ever since the dawn of the Atomic Age, loudly protested nuclear weapons, insisting that they can serve no legitimate purpose and must be forever banished from the face of our Earth," said ICAN executive director Beatrice Fihn.

The prize is likely to give new momentum to ICAN and its allies in the coming months as the group tries to achieve ratification of the treaty by 50 nations. That would allow the ban to become binding under international law for those countries and put nuclear-armed states in the uncomfortable position of being outliers.

On Sept. 20, the first day the treaty was open for signatures, 50 countries signed it and three submitted their ratifications. Three more countries have since added their names. ICAN hopes to get the 50 ratifications by the end of 2018.

Norwegian Nobel Committee chairwoman Berit Reiss-Andersen noted that international prohibitions have been set on chemical and biological weapons, land mines and cluster munitions.

"Nuclear weapons are even more destructive, but have not yet been made the object of a similar international legal prohibition," she said.

The five original nuclear powers—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France, which also are permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—support nuclear nonproliferation but boycotted the treaty negotiations. Nuclear-armed India, Pakistan and North Korea didn't vote.

"If you want to make sure that no new states get nuclear weapons, you need to be ready to reject nuclear weapons themselves," Fihn said. "This treaty really demands that they walk the walk."

ICAN has its roots in Australia but was launched in Vienna in 2007, inspired largely by another Nobel peace prize-winning group, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

The \$1.1 million prize is likely to help boost ICAN's advocacy. It also organized events globally in 2015 to mark the 70th anniversaries of the attacks on the Japanese cities

See GROUP on Page 5

'IPI will defend discrimination allegations'

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC stated it is committed to the fair and equitable treatment of all of its employees.

In a statement last night, it strongly denied the allegations contained in the lawsuit filed

by its former employee, Rovie Anne Chopitea.

"Imperial Pacific International stands firm that all the

allegations are completely unfounded, false, fabricated and meritless. Imperial Pacific International does not condone

such practices.

"Therefore, Imperial Pacific International will vigorously contest Ms. Chopitea's claims.

"As the largest private sector employer in the CNMI, Imperial Pacific International

will defend its reputation as a good corporate citizen and employer.

"Imperial Pacific International will fully litigate Chopitea's lawsuit and all other meritless lawsuits," it said. (PR)

Alleged fake-job scam victim tells of how he was recruited in Bangladesh

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An alleged victim of a CW-1 scam who was recruited in Bangladesh said he was told to lie at the U.S. Embassy in their country about paying a recruitment fee.

Taking the witness stand on Friday in the ongoing jury trial in federal court, Abu Bakkar Beg testified how he was recruited in Bangladesh.

The 25-year-old Beg said that, while he was in Bangladesh, he met one of the five defendants, Md. Rafiqul Islam, who told him that his brother, defendant Muksedur

Rahman, is in America and that if he wants to go there, he just has to pay 15 *lakh takas*.

Taka is the currency in Bangladesh. One *lakh* is equivalent to 100,000 *takas* (about \$1,219). One U.S. dollar is equivalent to 82 *takas*.

Responding to questions by assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, Beg said that Islam told him that he would be given a hotel job on Saipan.

Aside from brothers Islam and Rahman, the others on trial are TBK Auto Cares owner David Trung Quoc Phan; Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez; and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter.

Management of Pacific fisheries at WESPAC's committee meeting

HONOLULU—Pacific scientists will meet in Lihue, Kauai, from Oct. 10 to 12 to provide recommendations on managing fisheries in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the US Pacific Remote Islands Areas.

The meeting of the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is open to the public.

The council will consider the recommendations of the SSC and its other advisory bodies at its 171st meeting on Oct. 17-19 in Utulei, American Samoa.

The major agenda items include the following:

American Samoa Large Vessel Prohibited Area options: Consideration will be given to an exemption that would allow U.S.-flag longline vessels over 50 feet in length to fish within portions of the LVPA and that takes into account the needs of cultural fishing practices.

American Samoa Long-line Permits modifications: The longline limited entry program was developed in 2002 to limit access to a booming fishery. Subsequently, the small-boat alia fishery shrunk to a single vessel, and larger longline vessels faced economic hardship. In 2011, the council recommended modifying the program to remove potential regulatory barriers to new entry and to streamline the permit process. At the 170th meeting, the council endorsed an augmented version of its 2011 recommendation. The council will consider taking final action on this matter.

Annual Sea Turtle Interaction Limits in The

Offshore Aquaculture: This action would establish a federal management program to develop a sustainable aquaculture industry in the US exclusive economic zone waters around American Samoa, Hawaii, Guam, the CNMI, and the Pacific Remote Island Areas. The program would provide a framework for the council and National Marine Fisheries Service to review and authorize where, how and how much aquaculture is developed and to regulate and manage aquaculture activities in the EEZ.

Fishery Species in Need of Conservation and Management: The list of management unit species will be reviewed to determine the need of federal conservation and management and whether some species could be removed from the Fishery Ecosystem Plans or reclassified as Environmental Components.

Annual Catch Limits for 27 Coral Reef Fish Species in the Main Hawaiian Islands: Consideration will be given to the peer-reviewed

See WESPAC on Next Page

A sixth defendant, Zeaur Rahman Dalu, pleaded guilty and testified against his co-defendants.

Beg said he paid Islam money. When shown a check, he identified it as his mother's National Bank Limited check in the amount of 2 *lakh takas* that was a portion of the payment he made to Islam.

Beg said that Islam took the money and his passport and told him it would take a total of 14 *lakh takas* for him to come and work on Saipan.

As he did not have that amount, Beg said he borrowed money from relatives and mortgaged the family's land, paying the amount in three installments.

He also went through weld-

ing training for about two months in Bangladesh after being told to learn.

Beg said that Rahman called him in Bangladesh in 2015 to just wait.

He said his contract was to work for a year for TBK Auto Cares for a \$6.05 an hour.

Beg said that Islam told him not to mention at the U.S. Embassy that he paid to come to Saipan.

Beg will continue his testimony today, Tuesday, at 8am.

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington Senior U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour is presiding over the trial in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

According to the indictment, between May 2015 and Aug. 15, 2016, Rahman, Islam, Phan, and others recruited and hired Beg for nonexistent work.

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NAVY**From Page 1**

record fundraising for war relief at home.

It's also the first photograph to win the Pulitzer Prize in the same year it was taken.

After 72 years, though, some worry that the man who made it, Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal, may fade from American memory. A group of veterans and photographers want to avoid that with their longshot petition to the U.S. Navy asking that a warship be named for him.

Rosenthal had requested the dangerous wartime assignment after he was rejected for service because of poor eyesight.

After photographing the fighting on Guam, Peleliu and Angaur, he nearly drowned en route to Iwo Jima as he transferred from the command ship El Dorado to an amphibious landing craft the day he took

the photograph.

All accounts paint Rosenthal as a hands-on practitioner of his craft, not content to sit on a ship and take photos from afar.

"He was a 33-year-old man basically volunteering for combat and not carrying a weapon, but carrying his camera," said Tom Graves, chapter historian of the USMC Combat Correspondents Association in the San Francisco Bay Area. "He was exposed to great danger and in fact, was nearly killed several times."

After coming ashore in Iwo Jima, Rosenthal and others learned an American flag had made it to Mount Suribachi, a volcanic cone at the southwestern tip of the island and a key objective of the Marines. Unfortunately, another photographer had already captured that image.

"I wanted a flag going up on Iwo, and I want it badly," Rosenthal later recalled.

When he learned that a

second, much larger flag was on its way to the site, he began mentally composing what would become his iconic photo: Where would the men be? Where would the flag be? How tall would it be?

He built a platform of stones and sandbags to stand on, adjusted his shutter timing and tuned his aperture. It was about noon, with the sun directly overhead and a strong wind.

"I see what had to be gone through before those Marines, with that flag, or with any flag, got up to the top of that mountain and secured the highest point, the most important point, perhaps, in the entire battle, the most important ground to be taken by those Marines," Rosenthal said in a 1997 interview.

AP photo editor Jack Bodkin was the first to see Rosenthal's picture of six Marines raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

"Here's one for all time," he

declared as he sent the image by Navy radio to San Francisco. The image moved on Feb. 24 and appeared in newspapers on Sunday morning, 17½ hours after it was taken.

The accolades poured in.

"I think it's the most significant photo of all time because of what it did. I think there's more beautiful photos, I think there's more dramatic photos," said Graves, a commercial photographer. "You can't glance at it and not be moved by it. Someone at the time said it captures the soul of a nation. And I think it still does today."

Graves' group is expected to submit its petition to the Navy on Monday, which would have been Rosenthal's 106th birthday. Graves knows it's a longshot, but he and his group figured it was worth a try after the previous Navy secretary opened the door to naming ships for non-military people.

The legacy would be fitting, said Anne Rosenthal, the photo-

tographer's daughter.

"There are awards and there are plaques and there are speeches, but this whole idea of the ship is so appealing, because a ship is like a living thing. It has people who spend their lives on it, or parts of their lives on it," Anne Rosenthal said.

Her father wanted to contribute to the war and took his responsibilities seriously. And she said he was not a person who thought much about his own safety and security.

"He was good at his craft before he went to war," his daughter said. "He wanted to tell the story. And he had very good timing ... so in a certain way, he was well-skilled to

capture the moment and he came through."

Though his preference was to stay on and cover the next battles in the Pacific, Rosenthal was sent back to the United States to receive his Pulitzer and other commendations.

A tour followed for the Seventh War Loan Drive, a six-week effort that yielded a record \$26 billion in sales of Treasury Department bonds. Posters featuring the Iwo Jima photo were sold for the effort. The image also appeared on U.S. stamps.

Rosenthal's photo was so good that some believed it had been posed. Time and Life apologized to Rosenthal and the AP for its claims.

WWII**From Page 1**

Council's discussion program on World War II experiences.

Many of those who attended Thursday's discussion were either relatives of war survivors, war survivors themselves, or were just interested in the subject of World War II in the Pacific. In recognition of Humanities Month, the topic of focus was the experiences of civilians during the war and how the events impacted civilians.

Deleon Guerrero's short film, called *We Drank Our Tears: Francisco Babauta's Story*, was inspired by a scene from the book *We Drank Our Tears*, an oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation.

Deleon Guerrero took inspiration from an account of World War II by Carmen Tudela Flores, as told to Christopher Flores Lam, when a family finds shelter in a cave. According to a press kit,

"while in the cave, the family survived on food such as coconuts and sugar cane. Spring water was fetched at midnight when the Japanese soldiers would be asleep. On other nights, their tears were all they had to drink."

The film brought a few audience members to tears and evoked memories for a few. A woman named Aunty Dolling was so moved by the short film that she shared her experience during the war. According to her, she was a little girl when she was

» USDOJ looks at eradicating federal voting rights for previous state residents in CNMI

ported that had the State of Florida allowed counting of ballots mailed by Nov. 26, Al Gore would have won the state and then would have been elected President," said Sablan.

Gore was the Democratic candidate for the presidency back in 2000. He lost to George W. Bush.

"The number of voters overseas continues to grow. I am not sure about the GOP, but the National Democratic Party has overseas American delegates at their conventions. They cast nomination votes for presidential candidates," said Sablan.

Sablan believes the worry of Attorney General Jeffrey Sessions is that "overseas Americans" represent a bloc of more liberal voters and thus could be a deciding factor in the election of presidential candidates."

"I disagree with this because I believe every citizen has a right to vote," said Sablan.

forced to hide inside caves for survival during the war. The film brought back memories of her childhood as she too was sometimes unable to find drinkable water. She even remembers the sweet taste of water after the Americans finally liberated them.

According to Deleon Guerrero, he was not expecting to showcase his film in front of an audience on Saipan. He was just so focused on getting the film ready in time for the annual film festival in Guam, in addition to bringing the story to life.

One of the biggest struggles he faced during filming were the tourists who surrounded their shooting grounds.

The film took about two days to film. Filming took place at Ladder Beach and a few shots were taken at the American Memorial Park, according to Deleon Guerrero.

Deleon Guerrero took inspiration from an account of World War II by Carmen Tudela Flores, as told to Christopher Flores Lam, when a family finds shelter in a cave. According to a press kit,

"while in the cave, the family survived on food such as coconuts and sugar cane. Spring water was fetched at midnight when the Japanese soldiers would be asleep. On other nights, their tears were all they had to drink."

The cast consisted of students and former students of Deleon Guerrero at both Mount Carmel School and Northern Marianas College.

The film was written, edited, and directed by Deleon Guerrero and produced by Deleon Guerrero, Rob Travilla, and Frankie Eliptico.

WESPAC**From Page 3**

stock assessment of 27 species of coral reef fish in Hawaii. New annual catch limits for the species may be recommended.

■ **Gold Coral:** A moratorium on the harvest of gold coral was established in 2008

due to discrepancies in growth estimates for the species in the Western Pacific. This moratorium was continued in 2013 due to the need for additional information and study of gold coral growth rates. The moratorium will expire in 2018. An action will be proposed to ensure the sustainability of the gold coral fishery. (PR)

SALEH**From Page 1**

being reported missing last Tuesday.

Saipan Tribune sources said that Department of Public Safety detectives have already sought the assistance of federal authorities and were able to confirm that the 49-year-old Saleh, an assistant public defender, did not leave Saipan through the airport.

As this developed, detectives did a morning search yesterday in As Teo toward

the entrance of Laulau Bay, but did not find the lawyer.

Saleh lived in Chalan Santa Lourdes, As Teo.

DPS detectives and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services conducted a search last Thursday and Friday, but halted their operation over the weekend.

Lt. Jeffrey Olopai, chief of the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau, said yesterday that their information office will issue a statement today, Tuesday, to ask for the public's assistance in the search.

tions, just as those residing in Israel. Among the territories, overseas Americans residing in the Northern Marianas were allowed to vote under the UOCAVA," said Sablan.

The U.S. Department of Justice is now reviewing this law, with the intent to reverse this voting privilege.

A letter sent from the USDOJ to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit cited the *Sessions v Morales-Santana* case, which the U.S. Supreme Court defended a provision in the Immigration and Nationality Act, extending citizenship to certain children with one U.S. citizen parent. The letter was dated Sept. 11, 2017, and was signed by USDOJ Attorney Carleen Zubrzycki.

"... The proper remedy for an equal protection violation consisting of favorable treatment for a discrete group was to eliminate the favorable treatment for that group, rather than expanding more favorable treatment to everyone," the letter states, specifying that



Sablan

"Under the logic of *Sessions v Morales-Santana*, if that were an equal protection violation, the proper remedy would be to treat [the] CNMI like the four major territories that the [U.S.] Congress expressly addressed in the [UOCAVA]," the letter reads.

"As a former election official, I promoted this right for U.S. citizens residing in the Northern Marianas and encouraged overseas Americans to vote in federal elections. While the turnout is usually not very high, it has been re-

Matson Guam executive is promoted to VP

GUAM—Matson, Inc. announced yesterday the promotion of Bernadette “Bernie” Valencia to the position of vice president, expanding on her role as general manager for Guam and Micronesia.

As Guam and Micronesia GM for the last four years, Valencia has overseen operations and has become the recognizable representative of Matson in the community.

In her new role as vice president, Valencia will manage the new Naha, Okinawa service that made its first call on Sept. 2, 2017.

“Bernie’s exemplary leadership has been instrumental in our growth in the Western Pacific as well as solidifying Matson’s leadership role in the

Port of Guam and the region’s business community,” said Vic Angoco, senior vice president, Pacific. “Bernie has helped the company build longstanding relationships with our customers and our local teams in

Guam and Micronesia.”

Valencia joined Matson in 2008 as manager, sales and customer service, Guam & Micronesia, with responsibility for all sales and customer service activities in Guam, the CNMI, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. She was later promoted to regional manager, sales and customer service.

“I am proud of this new role as it recognizes the unparalleled work that my entire

team has achieved in the region,” said Valencia. “Guam is my hometown, so I am honored to be entrusted by our chairman Matt Cox and our senior vice president Pacific Vic Angoco with a larger role in helping Matson to establish more roots locally and serving our customers and communities throughout the region.”

Prior to her work with Matson, Valencia spent 14 years with Mobil Oil Guam

& Micronesia, Inc., where she held various management positions, responsible for overseeing Mobil’s bulk fuel terminal operations and engineering throughout Guam and Micronesia. She earned a bachelor’s degree in aviation maintenance from San Jose State University.

Most recently, Valencia oversaw the acquisition of land and construction of Matson’s new regional head-

quarters along Marine Corps Drive in Guam. This multi-million-dollar project, which celebrated its grand opening at the end of August 2017, commemorated Matson’s 21 years of serving the region and underscores Matson’s commitment to Guam and the region.

Angoco added, “As a proud daughter of Guam, Bernie leads her team with the mission of serving the communities in which they live and work.”

Valencia serves as a member of the boards of many local organizations such as

the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Employer’s Council, i*Recycle, iCan Resources Inc., and the Guam Contractor’s Association Trades Academy. She also serves on the USO Advisory Council and the University of Guam Small Business Advisory Council.

Founded in 1882, Matson is a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific. Matson provides a vital lifeline to the economies of Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Micronesia and select South Pacific islands, and operates a premium, expedited service from China to Southern California.

For more information about Matson, go to www.matson.com. (PR)

» Valencia expands role in Guam and Micronesia



Valencia

GROUP

From Page 2

ies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II.

The committee, citing nearly 15,000 nuclear weapons in the world, said “the risk of nuclear weapons being used is greater than it has been for a long time.”

In 2009, it awarded the prize to President Barack Obama, months after he laid out the U.S. commitment to “seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.”

Since then, the U.S. has been a leading voice against the treaty to ban nuclear weapons. The real lobbying battleground could shape up in countries like NATO member states, Japan and South Korea that have military alliances with the U.S., but where activists could be emboldened by the Nobel prize.

Trump has fanned concerns about nuclear conflict, with threats against North Korean leader Kim Jong Un over the secretive regime’s tests, missile launches over Japan, and warnings that the U.S. territory of Guam could be next in the firing line.

The Nobel committee wanted “to send a signal to North Korea and the U.S. that they need to go into negotiations,” said Oeivind Stenersen, a historian of the peace prize.

“The prize is also coded support to the Iran nuclear deal” he said, alluding to dialogue that won curbs on Tehran’s nuclear program.

ICAN’s Fihn said many were worried about Trump.

“I think that the election of President Donald Trump has made a lot of people feel very uncomfortable with the fact that he alone can authorize the use of nuclear weap-

ons and there’s nothing people can do to stop him,” she told a news conference at the World Council of Churches building that hosts ICAN’s office in Geneva.

“There is no one who we can trust with the ability to destroy the entire world,” she said.

Somewhat unusually for a Nobel peace prize announcement, the nuclear-armed countries were largely silent or restrained in their reaction.

“Today’s announcement does not change the U.S. position on the treaty: the United States does not support and will not sign the ‘Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons,’” the U.S. State Department said in a statement.

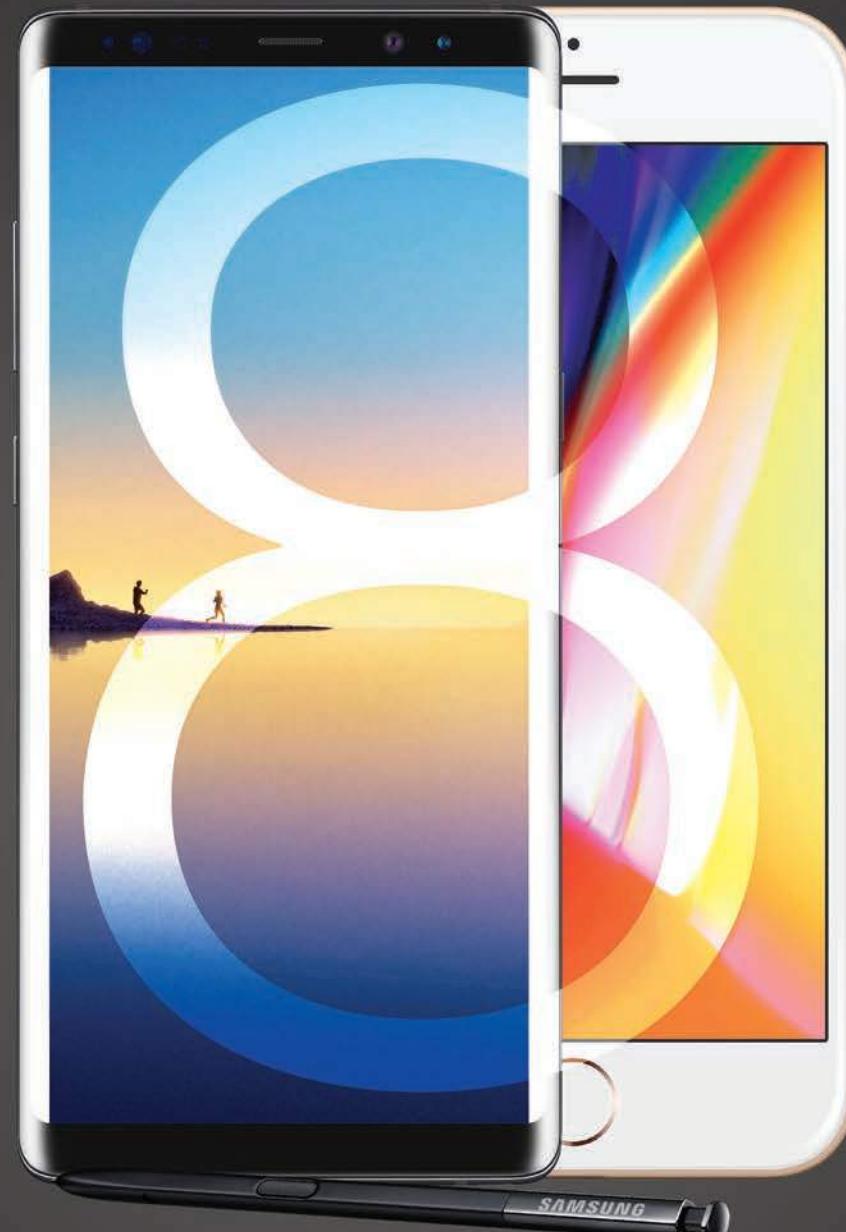
“Unfortunately, we are seeing a deterioration in the overall security environment and growing nuclear capabilities of certain states. This treaty will not make the world more peaceful, will not result in the elimination of a single nuclear weapon, and will not enhance any state’s security,” it said.

It added that the U.S. is committed to “creating the conditions for nuclear disarmament, a goal we share with our international security partners.”

The British and Russian governments did not comment. But British opposition Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn—a long-time disarmament campaigner whose photo hangs in ICAN’s Geneva office—congratulated the group.

In a carefully worded statement that did not endorse a nuclear weapons ban, France’s Foreign Ministry said the choice “testifies to the importance of nuclear nonproliferation in a context marked by the North Korean crisis.”

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BankPacific suit vs SBA over Rota land dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has dismissed a lawsuit filed by BankPacific Ltd. against the Small Business Administration over disputed land in Sinapalo, Rota.

In granting the SBA's motion to dismiss last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that BankPacific Ltd. failed to include SBA in its (BankPacific) foreclosure suit before the Superior Court in 2013.

Manglona said the 2013 foreclosure suit does not bind SBA and has not extinguished its right of redemption.

Finally, the judge said, BankPacific has offered no additional authority, as SBA points out, that would allow the federal court to extinguish SBA's interests in the property.

IAO hopes to create plan to revive islands' identity

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Indigenous Affairs Office hopes to come up with a strategic plan within the next six months on how to preserve and make resilient the CNMI's indigenous culture.

Taking all the suggestions received during the inaugural indigenous conference last week, IAO resident executive Roman Tudela said it would take time before a plan is put into play.

The conference was split into work sessions and Tudela

Manglona further stated that because the one-year right to redemption has not run against the SBA, the federal court lacks jurisdiction to quiet title.

Manglona said because the court lacks authority to extinguish the SBA's lien interests in the property, it cannot grant BankPacific the relief it seeks.

Accordingly, the judge said, granting SBA's motion to dismiss is not a "waste of time," as BankPacific insists.

In its lawsuit, BankPacific, through counsel Michael A. White, asked the District Court to declare that SBA has no right, title, or interest to the lot.

According to the com-

plaint, couple Matthew A. and Rita M. Ooka executed a mortgage in favor of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. on Oct. 3, 1995. The Ookas mortgaged a parcel of

property in Sinapalo II, Rota. In 1997, NMHC assigned the mortgage to BankPacific.

In 2003, the Ookas applied for a loan with SBA, mortgaging the same lot to SBA.

In 2013, BankPacific filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court against the Ookas to foreclose upon its mortgage.

In 2014, the Superior Court ordered that the lot be sold. White said the lot was sold and the sale was approved by the Superior Court.

White said the foreclosure of BankPacific's mortgage on the lot, and the sale of that property, extinguished SBA's right to the property.

SBA denied this in its motion to dismiss the lawsuit.

SBA asserted that BankPacific failed to include SBA as a defendant in the foreclosure lawsuit pursuant to the Commonwealth's Real Estate Mortgage Law, thus

the Superior Court lacked jurisdiction over the SBA and could not remove SBA's lien on the property.

SBA also argued that because BankPacific did not perfect service on the SBA, as required by federal law, the SBA's lien survives.

Finally, SBA argued that its right of redemption was not extinguished because BankPacific failed to give it notice or include it in the foreclosure action.

But according to BankPacific, it had a superior interest in the property and therefore "when [it] exercised its right [by foreclosing on the property], SBA's mortgage became a nullity."

BankPacific also argued that SBA has no right of redemption.

In granting the motion to dismiss, Manglona said in this case, BankPacific did not

name the SBA as a defendant in the original complaint for foreclosure.

Accordingly, Manglona said, the SBA, which has an interest in the disputed lot, has not had its rights extinguished by the 2013 foreclo-

sure proceeding.

Even assuming that CNMI law does not provide for a right of redemption by the SBA in these circumstances, the federal statute providing a right of redemption has not expired, Manglona said.

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Thursday is happy hour all night long on selected beverages and specialty Halloween cocktails. Guests can enjoy 50-percent discount on selected drinks from 4:30pm to 11pm at the Hangman's Pub (Vino Bar).

Due to popular demand, the Cajun SeaFest every Tuesday and Thursday is back!

Feast on their Shrimp Combo Bag for only \$65 per couple, Crab Combo Bag for only \$80 per couple and the Deluxe Lobster Combo Bag for only \$95 per couple.

Each order comes with a choice of either one bucket of mixed ice-cold Budweiser family beers or a pitcher of specialty softdrinks: Classic Lemonade, Pink Lemonade, Blue Lemonade and Sweet Southern Tea.

For reservations, call the Aqua Resort Club at 322-1234 Ext. 731 or 732. Ask about their rates for group parties—from 10 to 160 seats—for christening birthdays, meetings, and seminars. (Bea Cabrera)

heritage of CNMI. I asked for the list so we can look at them as resource people that the system can tap," he said.

Guerrero also proposed mentors for the CCHLS instructors. "These mentors can help the instructors in the classrooms. If the instructors have questions, they know that there are people in the school that can help them to help clarify things."

Deleon Guerrero hopes that the advisory panel will look at what courses and professional developments the instructors in level 1 have taken and make a determination as they move toward taking other courses such as orthography and classroom management and other multi-culture education courses.

BOE member Herman Guerrero said the board must have a list of these qualified individuals.

"I did request that we identify these individuals in the community. We can ascertain their mastery level. These are the people we can say are experts in language, culture, and



Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero at the Special Board meeting held Oct. 6 discussing concerns about the proposed certification requirements for Chamorro and Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies instructors.

of the board to...issue a certification to these individuals that they have been trained and have attended all these

professional developments. They just haven't completed the more rigorous courses that are points toward to a specific

content," she added.

Deleon Guerrero also understands that if the board removes the more rigorous

"They continue to hold Instructor 1 certification level because they have yet to complete the orthography and other requirements to move up to the Instructor 2 level," she said.

"We are working on a proposal to the advisory panel

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Bank of Guam hosts mixer for SYP members

Bank of Guam hosted a brunch mixer and workshop for members of the Saipan Young Professionals last Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017.

Called "Business & Brunch with Bank of Guam," the mixer attracted aspiring and current business owners who learned about Bank of Guam's small business initiatives.

Marcie Tomokane, Bank of Guam's vice president/CNMI

regional manager, spoke about commercial loans and other resources that are available.

Tania David, the bank's AVP/operations manager, discussed the document requirements for different business structures: sole proprietor, partnership, non-profit, corporate/incorporated, association and limited liability companies.

Also present was Larry Philip, the bank's AVP/operations support manager.

The participants shared experiences, advice, and motivation with one another. Participants enjoyed complimentary gifts, brunch, and refreshments courtesy of Bank of Guam.

SYP also collected toys from each attendee to benefit the 2017 Toys 4 Tots Program.

One of the participants, Michael C. Manglona, who is a partner in a new business,



Bank of Guam officials and Saipan Young Professionals members show off the toys they collected for the Toys 4 Tots program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Territorial governors: Tread lightly on tax reform

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres joined the governors of other U.S. territories to press the U.S. Senate for a separate title to address taxes on territories.

In a letter dated Aug. 30, 2017, Torres, Gov. Lolo M. Moliga of American Samoa, Gov. Edward B. Calvo of Guam, and Gov. Kenneth E. Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands reminded the U.S. Senate that even the slightest of federal tax policy changes could greatly affect each territorial economies.

This came as U.S. Congress begins efforts to reform the U.S. tax code "in order to create American jobs and spur

economic growth."

The letter was addressed to U.S. Senate Committee on Finance chair Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and ranking member Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), along with U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) and ranking member Rep. Richard E. Neal (D-MA).

"It is ... increasingly clear that restrictive and ill-considered tax policies, a 'one-size-fits-all' approach can also negatively impact economic growth, reduce job opportunities, and create fiscal instability for our governments," reads part of the letter.

In line with this, a "separate title or subtitle for the territories in any tax reform bill considered

by the tax-writing committees" should be looked.

"[These] would include special rules for economic growth and jobs creation in these American, but often neglected, areas," they stated.

The letter cited the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Puerto Rico, which noted that Congress must "be mindful" that Puerto Rico and the other territories are U.S. jurisdictions... "home to U.S. citizens or nationals, and that jobs in Puerto Rico and the other territories are American jobs."

The letter also specified that the territories are "generally considered foreign tax jurisdictions," making it essential that the U.S. income tax system treat the territories "more

favorably" than foreign jurisdictions and "include special rules to empower the territories to meet the unique fiscal and economic challenges each territory faces."

The U.S. House approved the U.S. fiscal year 2018 budget last Oct. 5, 2017, with elements to assist the advance of a tax bill. Republicans in Congress seek to enact tax cuts for corporations, small businesses, and individuals. President Donald J. Trump, along with several top Republicans in Congress, seeks to enact the cuts before January 2018 while federal officials claim that the cuts would induce a short-term surge and would soon be defeated by inflation and possibly recession.

mented immediately for personal and business success.

This seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017. Registration fee is \$50 per person for Chamber members and \$55 per person for non-members. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. (SCC)

Seminar on customer service, suggestive selling

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and Island Training Solutions will be hosting a training seminar called "Customer Service and Suggestive Selling for the Holidays" on Nov. 16, from 9am to 12pm.

It is guaranteed to motivate your employees while preparing for the holiday rush. With the holidays right around the corner, there is no better time to give your employees the gift that keeps on giving: training that is sure to boost your busi-

ness's overall performance as your employees increase their ability to provide top level service! It is essential that your team is ready and willing to serve with excellence.

With the increase of business development on island, this training seminar will allow participants to retain and grow client relationships by having meaningful conversations, to ask key questions that engage, and be able to model appropriate gestures to pro-

vide a meaningful experience. Participants will also learn how to upsell, cross-sell, and suggestive sell. These are essential practices that successful retail businesses use in their establishments.

Although the CNMI is experiencing a competitive workforce and an even more demanding consumer base, employees can learn to elevate the level of a company's customer service by acquiring concepts that can be imple-

mented immediately for personal and business success.

There will be a scheduled water outage tomorrow, Oct. 11, 2017, from 8am to 5pm in the Chalan Piao, San Antonio, and

support group like this."

The SYP, an official committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, is a group of young professionals. To join the SYP committee or for more information, contact (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. (Saipan Tribune)

UOG upgrades campus Wi-Fi network

The University of Guam will launch a new, upgraded Wi-Fi network on Nov. 1, 2017. UOG has partnered with eduroam (education roaming), a secure, worldwide Internet access service developed for the international research and education communities. Through the eduroam network, UOG students, faculty, researchers, and staff can access the Internet across the campus and in over 550 institutions in the U.S. and international institutions in 70 countries.

"We are very excited to offer eduroam to our campus community," said Rommel Hidalgo, chief information officer. "Being part of this global partnership provides us with resources and connectivity all over the world."

Eduroam will provide users on campus with connections

as fast as 150 Mbps. With future upgrades planned, Hidalgo said the connection speeds will approach 1 Gbps, nearly seven times faster.

UOG students and employees can access the eduroam network now and should log in before Oct. 31 to activate their connection. The current UOG Wi-Fi network will be discontinued on Nov. 1.

Access is easy

When on the UOG campus, users simply select eduroam

from the list of available Wi-Fi networks and enter their UOG email address and Triton Portal password. For more information visit the UOG eduroam website at eduroam.uog.edu or call the UOG Office of Information Technology at (671) 735-2640 or helpdesk@uog.edu. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association support meeting on Thursday, Oct. 12, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

Lions Club to celebrate 25th anniversary

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will be a host a fundraiser called "The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017" on Nov. 4 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort, with VIP tickets priced at \$25 and general admission at \$10. Proceeds will be used for the club's community projects. Fourteen candidates will be

competing. The show will be choreographed and directed by Ernie Molina. For more details and sponsorships, call SFALC president Annamae Adaza at 483-5237, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Molina at 789-8212. (PR)

Repairs will be located at the corner of Guangdong Hardware in As Lito.

Due to the closure of the southbound lane and for the safety of men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

That same day, there will be a scheduled water service interruption from 8am to 5pm in the Puerto Rico, Sadog Tasi, Lower Base, Lower Navy Hill, and Garapan areas. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the interruption is to allow CUC's contractor, GPPC Inc., to abandon a 2-inch waterline on Isa Drive, Sadog Tasi and transfer customers onto the 12-inch water main to provide a more effective and efficient operation. This project is part of an ongoing Cross Island Road Phase 3 project on Capital Hill.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

NMDC opposes extending public land leases

By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Descent Corp. opposes a Senate proposal to amend Article 11 of the CNMI Constitution that would allow longer lease terms on public lands.

In a meeting Wednesday night, NMDC members voted not to support extending public land leases beyond the 40-year period provided by the CNMI Constitution.

A bill that's now pending in the Legislature, Senate

Bill 20-35, proposes to allow extending public land leases by 35 years on top of the current 40-year period allowed by law.

"The NMDs [Northern Marianas descent] present tonight decided, in all due respect to our esteemed legislators, to keep Article 11 as is, which means 40 years maximum land lease," said NMDC president John Gonzalez.

He said this was because NMDs did not want to close the door to other possible investors. The members of the

corporation believe that the land-bidding process should proceed, once a public land lease is up, while ensuring a fair and just bidding process.

"...Nothing in the existing Article 11 public land lease prohibits anyone, any authentic investor, from submitting a competitive proposal to invest in public lands, including existing investors," said Gonzalez.

He said this will ensure that individuals of Northern Marianas descent receive the best land lease offers and "NMDs

will achieve the best optimum dividend returns."

Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), who spoke at the meeting, said that his concern is for hotels and businesses that have leased public lands and contributed to the islands' economy.

He said these hotels and companies have given much to the economy and extending their leases should be considered for these hotels so they could further develop their assets.

Rep. Sixto Igisomar (R-

Saipan), who supports extending public land leases, wants to see diversity among its investors. He believes that an extension will keep the current diversity among investors, ensuring a healthy economy.

By extending public land leases, existing investors

will be able to come up with a stronger proposal for their properties, ensuring a continuous diversity among investors on the island, Igisomar said.

According to Gonzalez, the NMDC decided that diversity is still achievable by allowing the current investors to proffer their best proposals. Gonzalez said the NMDC believes that "40 years is a lot of time."

PSS wants review of suspension policy

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System wants to review the suspension policy and procedures of public schools for truancy cases that are referred to the School Attendance Review Committee.

This was taken up during the PSS special board meeting last Friday after SARC coordinator Bobby L. Coldeen III reported that they currently have six truancy cases since the beginning of the school year.

"We have a couple of new referrals that brings up our total to six referrals. We continue to work with the students from last year and even previous years that has been referred. We continue to have interventions and presentations in schools," said Coldeen.

SARC was formed in 2014 to serve as an avenue for public schools to provide intervention for juveniles and their families in addressing truancy, irregular attendance, or insubordinate or disorderly behavior in school before referral to the juvenile justice system.

Board of Education member Herman Guerrero, who asked about the policy and procedures when it comes to juvenile delinquency, said that he has been hearing concerns from the community "that there are kids that should be in school but they're not going."

"We would like to know who is responsible to ensure

kids are going to school. ... Where does the system step in to address this issue with the parents?" he added.

Coldeen said that notification and information to SARC come from the school.

"The schools turn in the student referral form and so what we really know is what we get from the schools. ... So all those cases that are referred by the schools are being handled by SARC," he said.

Education Commissioner Cynthia Deleon Guerrero said the request for intervention comes from the school and the school is very much involved.

"Once the referral is given to SARC and, throughout the request for assistance, the school remains involved in all of this. The school principal and vice principal review the disciplinary actions, talk to student and study their behavior. They reach out to our partner agencies and address these. But they also address at a school level what is in place, our policy and procedure and they implement that continuously."

"There may be students who are suspended for a period of time and maybe others who have stopped coming to school. But the school remains involved in that entire process," she added.

Guerrero suggested that in-school suspension—where a suspended student stays in school—is more appropriate as students are monitored and

continue to do schoolwork.

"We still have our obligation to make sure these [children] are having appropriate education, whether they are in school or not. But I would like the committee to address this and look at our suspension requirements because if you just kick the [children] out, you create another problem in the community," he added.

According to Coldeen, he is not sure how many schools implement in-school suspension, but cited Dandan Middle School as having a great in-school suspension program.

Paul Miura, teacher representative to the BOE, said he supports in-school suspension for truancy cases as it is an effective way to keep the students updated with lessons.

"We had that system at Saipan Southern High School. The students stay in cubicles and were heavily monitored by the dean of discipline. They

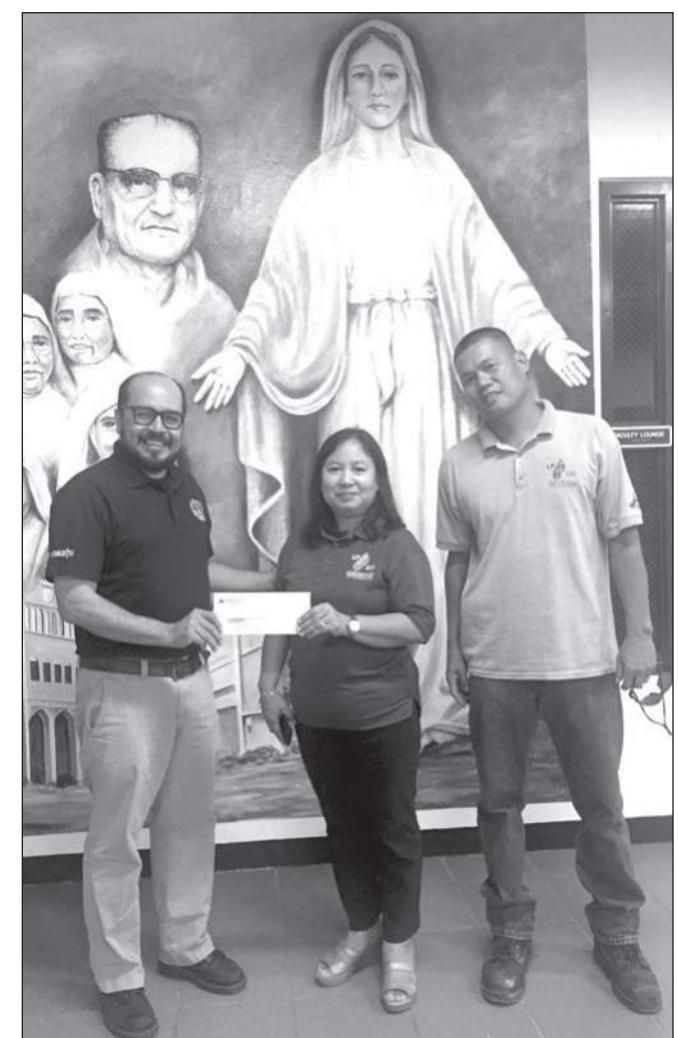
are still in school but not in the classroom. They have access to teachers for their lessons and that was really effective in our school," he said.

However, the person running the program has left PSS and the school experienced a huge turnover of administrative people and hasn't re-established the program since then.

"But it's something we have been constantly pushing. It will be better to have them on campus than to have them roaming in the communities. At SSHS it was highly effective; we had almost zero [tardy students]. The attendance rate significantly improved and the student outcome in general was better," he added.

BOE member Florine Hofsneider said that PSS must have a strong policy and procedure in place.

"We must focus on the child's behavior but we should never deny that child the right to education," she said.



ETC DONATION

Wushin Corp. drops by Mount Carmel School to make an education tax credit donation. Wushin Corp.'s manager Mher Lacap, center, and operations supervisor Jhun Patawaran, right, present the contribution to school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

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2018-CDA-01-RFP**

CLOSING DATE: Monday, October 30, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
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The scope of work may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, located on the 2nd floor, CDA Building., Oleai, Saipan, during regular working hours.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director
/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Google and Facebook must ensure honest information

Victims were still bleeding out below the Vegas sniper's deadly perch when the first noxious lies, disguised as "news," began circulating through the internet.

The anonymous message site 4chan, infamous for deliberately disseminating misinformation, falsely pinned the Sunday night massacre on a completely innocent individual—and linked the attack to a made-up Trump-hating liberal agenda.

Those falsehoods were picked up by Google's "top stories" module and gained even more traction after other sites republished them. Facebook's official "safety check" page for the shooting prominently displayed a post from Alt-Right News Blogspot, which identified the gunman as a "Trump-hating Rachel Maddow fan."

More inaccurate reports followed, among them that the FBI had already linked the shooter to the Islamic State and that the mainstream media was concealing that he was a recent convert to Islam.

As Americans grappled with the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, the internet's hateful troublemakers and trolls were hellbent on using the tragedy to further divide the nation.

The response from Google and Facebook? They just let it happen, hosting fake news stories about the still-developing events in Las Vegas right next to legitimate reports from major news organizations.

These bold, innovative digital giants, with their superior tools for distributing news and information, again have turned timid when it comes to accountability—and more important, solutions—to thwart the spreading of lies.

As two-thirds of American adults get news from social media, the honest vetting and presentation of information by these companies is mandatory. Even when Google or Facebook takes down bad information, it's already been read and spread by millions of people.

The powerful platforms' attempts to hide behind weak excuses like "we're just a tech company" or "it's all about the algorithms" don't cut it. The solution is not to improve the computers' instructions but rather to add some experienced, intelligent humans into the decision-making.

Prior to the damaging lies out of Las Vegas, digital operations were already feeling heat over whether their sites influenced the last presidential election.

Facebook and Twitter agreed Wednesday to participate in an open congressional hearing Nov. 1 related to how foreign parties may have leveraged their platforms in the 2016 vote. Google has also been asked to attend.

At one point, Facebook employed news editors to work on its "trending topics" list, but after accusations of bias, Mark Zuckerberg's company automated the process. That opened the door to fake news poisoning the digital ecosystem.

The day after the Vegas tragedy, Atlantic tech writer Alexis Madrigal made a strong argument for how and why

See GOOGLE on Next Page



Political posturing after Vegas is repellent

At least with Sandy Hook, they waited a nanosecond before weighing in with the divisive sniping. Maybe it was the fact that children had been executed two weeks before Christmas, and their upturned faces and expectant eyes were etched in our memory, like Cindy Lou Who's innocence confronting the reality of the Grinch; we could not find it in our hearts to start fighting.

There was a brief, ephemeral moment of suspended grace before the onslaught of recrimination. Or maybe I have a faulty memory, and the partisan sides were already drawn before the blood of innocents had been mopped up from the schoolroom floors.

But there is nothing faulty in my observational skills this week, when another massacre stole the oxygen from the room and sent us reeling, this time over unnatural evil instead of natural disaster.

Part of the script was predictable and I made a mental calculation—3, 2, 1—of the minutes it would take before someone raised the issue of gun control.

I didn't even make it to 3.

The calls for legislation curtailing access to guns began even before we knew the name of the shooter, his identity, his history. It began while the bullet casings were being scraped up off the ground on the Las Vegas Strip, and families were being notified of their great losses. I have no problem with that, because you cannot look at a massacre of these dimensions and ignore the manner of its execution. If Stephen Paddock didn't have those weapons, 58 people, as of this writing, would still be alive. It's a simple calculation, and even someone like me who almost failed algebra can figure it out.

But while I almost failed algebra, I got a very good grade in logic, and I'm not blind to how people are using this tragedy to advance their political agendas. It started when Sen. Chris Murphy, who as a congressman represented the district where Sandy Hook occurred, took to the floor of Congress and attacked his colleagues for observing a "moment of silence" for the victims. He was careful to package his anger as frustration against the NRA, but anyone could see he was aiming his salvos at Republicans, who are much more likely to oppose gun control legislation than his fellow Democrats.

But even more repellent than the thought that politicians were going to try to gain some tactical advantage at the ballot box was the idea that praying for the souls of the departed was a shallow, calculated show. I couldn't believe it when people started criticizing those of us who would "take a knee" to show solidarity

By CHRISTINE FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

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with the dead and their loved ones.

Some of these same self-righteous arbiters of morality were the first to defend Colin Kaepernick's right to symbolic protest on the sideline, but were intolerant of grieving Americans who chose to do the same thing to honor the massacre victims. One of my friends explained that the attacks were not really against the mourners but, rather, a commentary on the emptiness of prayerful gestures as the easy way out for a Congress that consistently fails to enact stronger gun laws. Perhaps, but it doesn't answer the question as to why gestures are good enough to protest racism, but not good enough to show respect to the suffering.

But even worse than the reflexive one-upmanship on gun legislation and the "Prayer Is Useless" preaching was the injection of identity politics into the mix. Some people wondered out loud whether we would have reacted differently if the shooter was not a white, wealthy man. People are hooked up to life support, their families don't know whether they will be planning funerals, and we still have time to ask what would have happened if the guy on the 32nd floor wasn't a white millionaire but an immigrant from South Asia or a black guy from Chicago.

It might come as a surprise to some people, but we are not all tuned into the Race Channel 24/7.

I am not a fan of guns. In fact, I am not a fan of the NRA, and while I think that the Second Amendment deserves as much respect as the other protections in the Bill of Rights, I have a hard time understanding how limiting the number of guns a citizen can own, depriving the mentally ill of access to dangerous firearms, mandating laborious background checks, and keeping semi-automatics out of the hands of civilians is controversial.

When Charlton Heston said they'd have to pry that gun out of his cold, dead hands, I thought, "Moses, you stepped down from Mount Sinai and went around the bend."

But, my God, people, we can do better than this pathetic performance of political posturing, finger-pointing and race-baiting. Can't we?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published.

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We need to stop worshipping guns

I do not own a gun.

I wish more Americans could say the same, because our culture has become far too coarse and violent.

Guns are at the heart of the problem, a defining characteristic of America's global image as a developed nation still stuck in the Wild West.

I am not an anti-gun extremist who wants to shred the Second Amendment, round up all the weapons and call it a great day.

That will never happen, nor should it.

I come from a family of gun owners. My dad taught me how to shoot when I was a boy growing up in rural East Texas, where you were an oddball if you didn't own a gun.

And I've already begun teaching my two youngest children respect for guns by showing them how to properly handle and shoot BB and pellet guns. When they get older, I might even take them to a shooting range where they can learn how to properly handle a more potent weapon.

My youngest son, who likes to take his Daisy rifles out to the country to shoot at tin cans and fence posts, has asked me many times why I don't own a "real" gun. I don't tell him that guns are evil, because they aren't.

My message, hopefully, is honest. Guns serve many purposes: They are used for sport. They are used for self-defense. And, to a lesser extent, they are used for survival by those who still live off the land, as my father and his father once did.

But at some point during my adolescence, I discovered that I was not cut from the same cloth as my dad and my older brothers, who could nail a deer or a squirrel from great distance. I didn't like killing furry creatures.

So when my father died a quarter-century ago, I politely declined to take any of the guns he'd kept for hunting.

No need for them in the big city, I told Mom.

I can appreciate the Founding Fathers' well-intended if antiquated idea about maintaining a well-armed militia ready to

ward off the evil encroachment of a rapacious empire, foreign or domestic.

Guns didn't start the Civil War, World War I or WWII.

Guns didn't march themselves to Sandy Hook Elementary School, to a baseball field in Alexandria, Va., to a nightclub in Orlando or to a hotel in Las Vegas.

It is we humans who anoint them with special powers, who test them wisely or turn them into wicked instruments.

Even if I could wave a magic wand, I would not get rid of the whole lot.

I would take aim at the weapons that are designed to slaughter, and I would set my sights on those folks who, like the Las Vegas shooter, amass arsenals far beyond what anyone could reasonably justify.

Seriously, who needs 49 guns?

Unless you're a certifiable gun collector, shouldn't that wave a red flag that just might warrant an occasional knock on the door from the feds?

And can't we agree that assault weapons—you know, the automatic guns capable of mowing down a crowd of people in minutes—do not belong in the hands of everyday people? Yes, fully automatic weapons technically are no longer legal—unless they were made before 1986.

Those are grandfathered. And in a testament to the brute strength of the gun lobby, there are several more loopholes that allow them to stay in circulation.

According to VOX, which cites federal data, there are more than 630,000 of these machine guns out there.

These weapons don't just speak to those who are waiting for trouble—in the sense of a well-armed militia.

They scream to those who are looking for trouble and a way to carry it out. They are meant for war, for annihilation, not as staples of a civilized culture.

But again, they are just a small part of the problem. America is

By JAMES RAGLAND

The Dallas Morning News



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the undisputed gun capital of the developed world.

We boast less than 5 percent of the world's population but more than 40 percent of all civilian-owned guns, according to VOX. We own more guns than the next top four—you can almost count the fifth nation, too—countries combined. To use a food analogy, we have become a fast-gun culture: a massive pile of guns waiting to feed a culture of violence.

We flex our ferocity in public with open carry laws. Just more fuses waiting to be lit.

We kill at a record pace. The Vegas shooting was the deadliest in modern U.S. history but, just as significantly, it was one of 1,516 mass shootings over the past 1,735 days, according to The Guardian.

We can no longer use the Second Amendment as an impenetrable shield against common-sense gun reform. We can no longer live in fear.

Wake up, Congress, and do something.

While we mourn the victims of the latest rampage, remind Americans that it is our trust in one another, and not our fear of one another, that binds a great nation.

Let's stop worshipping our dadgum guns. They've turned into false prophets promising salvation while leading us down a path of hellish self-destruction.

It's time we own up to that reality.

Trump's right: Nuke deals are for suckers

Nuke deals are all the rage these days. The United Nations sees nuclear accords as a path to world peace. President Barack Obama worked toward a "global zero" nuclear-free future.

President Donald Trump, on the other hand, is highly skeptical of deals with Iran and North Korea because he understands what Tehran and Pyongyang leaders already know: Nuclear disarmament deals are for suckers.

Countries generally balk at giving up their hard-won and expensive nuclear capabilities because nuclear weapons are a time-tested and reliable deterrent. Giving up these weapons requires faith that any agreement inked is rock solid and that the countries agreeing to unilateral nuclear disarmament are assured they will not wind up like Ukraine or Libya—invaded or overthrown.

Trump does not inspire this faith. Neither does he have faith that the other side will do as it's told.

That's why the Iran deal may soon get scrapped and why Trump tweeted at Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to stop "wasting his time" working to negotiate one with Kim Jong Un. Depending on unpredictable policy pronouncement or stated goals, treaty breakdowns could lead to a Middle East arms race or a rekindled North Korean conflict.

If the Iran deal is broken by the United States, there will certainly not be a North Korean deal, or any future deals with rising nuclear states, because foreign leaders will instantly have evidence of what they have always suspected: These agreements are a trap. A deal must be worth more than the paper on which it is written. And history shows, it is not.

Trump already has dumped the Trans-Pacific Partnership, withdrawn from the Paris climate accords, and decided (but not announced) whether to recertify the Iran deal. Every agreement, treaty, commitment and pinky-promise made by America is now in question. A few months back, even NATO wondered if collective defense—the main premise of the treaty organization—was on the table.

"Global statecraft relies on trust, reputation and credibility, which can be all too easily squandered," wrote my Hoover Institution colleague, former Secretary of State George Schultz, in making the business case for sticking with the Paris climate deal. "If America fails to honor a global agreement that it helped forge, the repercussions will undercut our diplomatic priorities

across the globe." North Korean nuclear disarmament is one of those priorities.

Putin, like Trump, does not concern himself with previously done deals, convention or expectation. In 1994, the Budapest Memorandum was signed by the U.S., U.K., Russia and Ukraine. When the Soviet Union dissolved, Ukraine had the world's third largest nuclear arsenal and the memorandum called for all 1,900 nuclear weapons to be moved to and disassembled in Russia. In exchange for the nukes, the parties all agreed to "respect the independence and sovereignty and existing borders of Ukraine," including Crimea, of course, and to "refrain from the threat or use of force" in the post-Soviet country.

What is the likelihood that Putin would have invaded, occupied and annexed all of Crimea or started a hybrid war in Ukraine's Donbass region if Kiev still controlled its arsenal?

Zilch.

The lesson learned by other aspiring nuclear powers?

It pays to have nukes.

Putin is not the only double-crosser. NATO's duplicity in Libya provides a lesson for potential disarmament partners. It is impossible to defend Gaddafi's murderous rule or to be critical of the sense of urgency and humanitarian impulse for regime change felt by the world and led by France and Britain. But here, too, dictators and despots grew to understand that even a disarmament deal with the West is not a guarantee of survival. Gaddafi gave up his WMD and nuclear weapons program in 2003 and, in return, saw painful sanctions removed and received an invitation to join the international community. Then he was killed. Long story short, it was a bad deal for him personally. The country has not fared that well, either.

That all happened way back when Obama was president, but dictators have pretty good memories. As a result, Kim Jong Un is looking closely both at bad precedents and Trump's potentially reneging on the relatively fresh Iran nuclear deal.

Iran is key. If Trump grudgingly recertifies the despised Iran deal for a third time, then maybe North Korea might be open to negotiating away its own nukes. Unlikely, but possible. Especially with a little stiff prodding from Beijing.

All indications are that Iran, despite its reprehensible regime and human rights violations both at home and abroad, is following the deal's conditions. Under those circumstances, Trump's

By MARKOS KOUPLANAKIS

Special to McClatchy



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team favors recertification. Secretary of Defense James Mattis (Disclosure: Mattis is also a Hoover colleague) just told Congress that the U.S. needs to stick with the Iran deal. A still-serving Secretary Tillerson concedes, "Iran is in technical compliance with the agreement," even though he holds his nose and believes Tehran is violating the accord's "spirit."

Trump may be trying to imitate Mohammed Ali and aggressively "rope-a-dope" Kim into a nuclear deal. The president's global reputation, however, as a sometimes (to some people) charming but blunt prevaricator is not likely to trick Kim into an act of self-toppling political suicide.

Which means that Trump might just do as he tweets by ordering a preemptive strike on Kim to try to land a sucker punch.

GOOGLE

From Page 10

digital giants must add news experts into the process ASAP.

While it's impossible for the platforms to catch every instance of fake-news profiteers, Facebook, Google, Twitter and others could at least moderate the most important searches. Especially in the cases of rare breaking news that's likely to confound the computers.

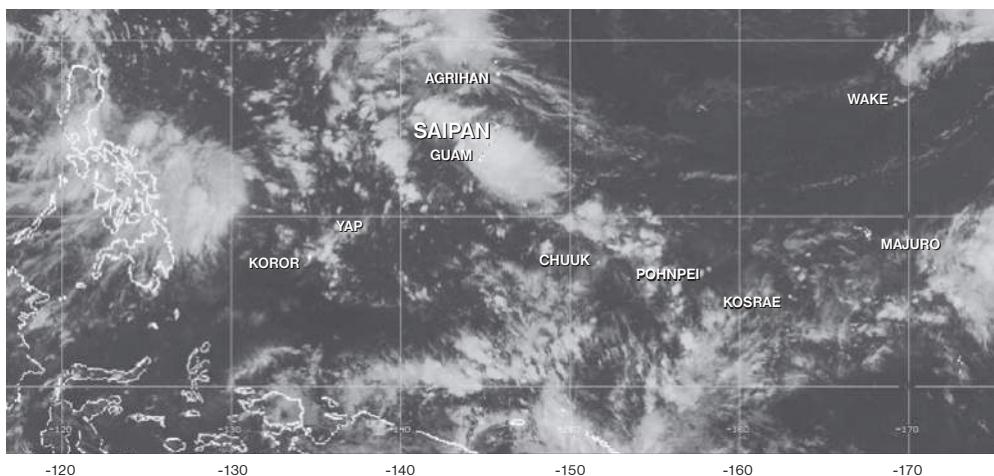
News consumers deserve better than what they're getting from companies that have become the most powerful information gatekeepers in the world. Google and Facebook can afford to do this work right.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 87° ▾ 77° | ▲ 88° ▾ 77° | ▲ 87° ▾ 77° | ▲ 87° ▾ 77° | ▲ 87° ▾ 77° |

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:15 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation south and east of the Marianas has become less organized. However, convergence north of this feature triggered showers and thunderstorms overnight continuing into this morning. The activity has generally moved northward, with Guam and Rota just having a cloudy sky and showers and thunderstorms concentrated around Tinian and Saipan. Therefore, have gone with scattered showers in the morning for both Tinian and Saipan before precipitation decreases and isolated elsewhere. Due to the circulation being weaker, the model guidance is has less rain over us today and tonight than previous runs. There is a weak surface trough but an upper high. Latest satellite imagery shows very little activity to the south at this time, so have gone out with isolated showers and thunder through Tuesday. Drier air is forecast to move in at the mid levels from Tuesday through Friday, and then another upper low looks to approach the north by the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ | ▼ | °F |
|---------------|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 85° | / | 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° | / | 78° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 86° | / | 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 87° | / | 82° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 87° | / | 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 87° | / | 78° |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 87° | / | 82° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ | ▼ | °F |
|------------------|---------------|-----|---|-----|
| Auckland | Showers | 61° | / | 54° |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | 64° | / | 39° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 90° | / | 81° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 85° | / | 75° |
| London | Cloudy | 63° | / | 55° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 86° | / | 59° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 88° | / | 79° |
| Melbourne | Rain | 75° | / | 50° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 84° | / | 64° |
| New York | Showers | 77° | / | 71° |
| Osaka | Sunny | 82° | / | 70° |
| Paris | Mostly Cloudy | 64° | / | 52° |
| Busan | Mostly Cloudy | 75° | / | 61° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 73° | / | 54° |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 87° | / | 71° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 66° | / | 50° |
| Seoul | Showers | 66° | / | 52° |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 79° | / | 68° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 86° | / | 66° |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 4:45 AM | LOW TIDE | -0.20 |
| 11:27 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.89 |
| 5:14 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.99 |
| 10:19 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.85 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:07 AM | 6:00 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:07 AM | 5:59 PM |
| Thursday | 6:08 AM | 5:58 PM |
| Friday | 6:08 AM | 5:58 PM |
| Saturday | 6:08 AM | 5:57 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 10:12 am | 10:00 pm |
| Wednesday | - | 11:12 am | 10:57 pm |
| Thursday | - | 12:11 pm | 11:56 pm |
| Friday | - | 1:08 am | 10:00 pm |
| Saturday | 12:55 am | 2:00 pm | - |

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2017

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA6394 4:15am 5:05am Daily | | | | UA6393 2:45am 3:35am Daily | | | |
| UA6392 8:40am 9:30am Daily | | | | UA6395 7:15am 8:05am Daily | | | |
| UA6391 1:30pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota | | | | UA6391 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | |
| UA6390 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 | | | | UA6390 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota | | | |
| UA6398 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily | | | | UA6397 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily | | | |
| UA6396 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily | | | | UA6399 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily | | | |
| SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) | | | |
| UA6391 1:30pm 2:05pm 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | | UA6390 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6 | | | |
| ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) | | | | ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA6391 2:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 | | | | UA6390 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 | | | |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| DL297 4:15pm 7:05pm Daily | | | | DL298 10:20am 3:00pm Daily | | | |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 7C3451 3:10am 6:10am 1, 7 | | | | 7C3452 9:00pm 2:10am+1 4 | | | |
| 7C3451 4:00am 7:05am 4, 5 | | | | 7C3452 9:05pm 2:10am+1 3, 6, 7 | | | |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW308 1:35am 5:20am 2, 3, 4 | | | | 7C3402 9:30am 3:00pm Daily | | | |
| OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1 | | | | TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1, 2, 3 | | | |
| TW308 2:35am 6:20am 6, 7 | | | | OZ625 | | | |

Business

White House to order health care alternatives

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is finalizing an executive order that would expand health plans offered by associations to allow individuals to pool together and buy insurance outside their states, a unilateral move that follows failed efforts by Congress to overhaul the health care system.

President Donald Trump has long asserted that selling insurance across state lines would trigger competition that brings down premiums for people buying their own policies. Experts say that's not guaranteed, partly because health insurance reflects local medical costs, which vary widely around the country.

Moreover, White House actions may come too late to have much impact on premiums for 2018.

Trump was expected to sign the executive order next week, likely on Thursday, a senior administration official said Sunday.

Under the president's executive action, membership groups could sponsor insurance plans that cost less because — for example — they wouldn't have to offer the full menu of benefits required under the Affordable Care Act, also called "Obamacare." It's unclear how the White House plans to overcome opposition from state insurance regulators, who see that as an end-run to avoid standards.

"There are likely to be legal challenges that could slow this



In this Friday, Oct. 6, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump speaks during a Hispanic Heritage Month event in the East Room of the White House, in Washington. AP

effort down," said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

Similar alternatives have been promoted by Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a Republican holdout during the health care debate. Senate leaders didn't bring the latest GOP health care bill to a vote because they lacked the votes to pass it.

Association plans "kind of went away with the ACA, and now the idea seems to be to re-create them," said Jeff Smedsrud, a health insurance

marketing entrepreneur. "It's not clear what they would really look like."

Smedsrud said a different option also under consideration by the White House, to loosen restrictions on "short term" insurance plans, could be a safety valve for some consumers.

Those plans generally have limited benefits and remain in force for less than a year. During the Obama administration, the availability of short-term coverage was restricted. One of Smedsrud's companies sells short-term plans.

Others warned that over time the White House order

could undermine state insurance markets created under Obama's law, by siphoning off healthy people to plans with lower premiums and skinnier benefits.

The order was being drafted as Trump expressed his willingness to work with Democrats on health care after Republicans were unable to approve legislation that would have repealed and replaced "Obamacare."

The president said Saturday that he had spoken to Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York to see if Democrats would want to

collaborate with him on improving health care. He told reporters before departing for a North Carolina fundraiser that he was willing to consider a "temporary deal" and referred to a popular Republican proposal that would have the federal government turn over money for health care directly to states in the form of block grants.

Schumer said through a spokesman Saturday that Trump "wanted to make another run at 'repeal and replace' and I told the president that's off the table." Schumer said if Trump "wants to work

together to improve the existing health care system, we Democrats are open to his suggestions."

It was unclear if the expected White House order could lead to changes sweeping enough and quick enough to help several million consumers exposed to higher premiums next year for their individual health insurance plans.

It typically takes government agencies several months to carry out presidential directives, since they generally must follow a notice-and-comment process. Sign-up season for individual health insurance starts Nov. 1 and ends Dec. 15.

"Whether this executive order could impact the 2018 market is yet to be seen, since the health plans have created and priced their 2018 products already, and open enrollment begins in just three weeks," said health industry consultant Robert Laszewski.

While nearly 9 million consumers who receive tax credits under the Obama-era law are protected from higher premiums, about 6.7 million other customers with individual coverage get no subsidies and will bear the full brunt of cost increases that reach well into the double digits in many states.

Tourism drop means Harvey still punishing Texas beach towns

PORT ARANSAS, Texas (AP)—Born and raised in this Texas Gulf Coast beach town, James Wheeler Jr. finds himself sawing plywood and hanging sheet rock at a time when he would normally be leading deep-sea fishing excursions, trying to hook tuna or Spanish mackerel by the cooler-full.

Since Hurricane Harvey came through Port Aransas just before Labor Day — damaging or destroying 80 percent of homes and business and wiping out the lucrative summer season's final weeks — the 38-year-old boat captain has become an amateur builder, working to repair the roof of a sea headquarters building where he and others dock their pleasure crafts.

"Port Aransas is built on the tourist dollar," said Wheeler, ticking off attractions besides fishing: surfing, nature reserves, seafood restaurants and beaches where it's always

cocktail hour. "That dollar's not coming right now."

In many Texas seaside enclaves, the owners of bars and eateries, inns and T-shirt shops are facing a painful paradox: Tourists who are their economic lifeblood likely won't return until the rebuild is in full swing, but picking up the pieces after Harvey may not truly begin without the profits tourists bring.

"That's the risk," said David Teel, president of the Texas Travel Industry Association. "The recovery will come. But it will never be fast enough for these folks."

Insurance money and support from federal grants will help residents rebuild homes and businesses, and in some cases even cover businesses' lost income and employees' lost wages. But that will pale in comparison to what tourists would normally be spending, likely helping ensure that re-

covery moves more slowly.

Locals expect the normally busy Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's holidays to be slow. Even the possibility of getting back to business by spring break looks bleak.

Visitors to Texas' Gulf Coast spent \$18.7 billion last year, according to state estimates, and the region's tourism industry employed 170,000-plus people. Visitors spent \$221 million in 2016 just in Port Aransas, a one-time fishing village that's now home to around 4,000 full-time residents.

In other years, October is when "Winter Texans" — part-time residents from colder locales — take up temporary residence, while shorter-term tourists come for the weekends. The influx of people is normally enough to keep the economy robust through the holidays and until spring.

Wheeler says he'd usually

be organizing large fishing trips nearly every day, but now takes just one smaller excursion a week.

"It's not that no one wants to come," Wheeler said. "There's just nowhere for them to stay yet."

Drivers entering Port Aransas encounter bulldozers tearing into a roadside mountain of debris more than three-stories high. Power company and internet provider vans are everywhere, as crews repair infrastructure. Golf carts — a favored mode of local transportation — have to avoid shattered glass and mangled light poles. They're more likely, these days, to be filled with Salvation Army personnel or construction crews than tourists hitting the beach.

"We are Port A Proud and on the Rebound," proclaims the website of the chamber of commerce, whose office was damaged. It lists six local hotels planning to be open by Christmas.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Average US gas prices fall 7 cents thanks to crude costs

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP)—The average price of a gallon of regular-grade gasoline fell 7 cents nationally over the past two weeks to \$2.56. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday that the drop comes as crude oil prices drop and flooded refineries on the hurricane-battered Gulf Coast return to operation. Lundberg says she expects further price cuts as refiners make cheaper "winter grade" gasoline. The current price is 27 cents above where it was a year ago. Gas in San Francisco was the highest in the contiguous United States at an average of \$3.11 a gallon. The lowest was in St. Louis at \$2.20 a gallon. The U.S. average diesel price is \$2.76, down a penny from two weeks ago.

Ryanair's operations chief to step down after cancellations

LONDON (AP)—The chief operations officer of Ryanair has announced plans to leave his post at the end of October following the cancellation of tens of thousands of flights scheduled for the coming months. Company officials said Saturday that Michael Hickey will still have an "advisory role" after he steps down following decades with the airline. He is the first senior executive to leave because of the damaging flight cancellations, which have disrupted travel plans for an estimated 700,000 passengers and undercut the company's bid to improve its customer service reputation. The flights were cancelled because of holiday staffing and scheduling errors. Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said Hickey had made an "enormous contribution" to the airline in the last 30 years.

Nation

Trump criticizes GOP Sen. Corker; Corker fights back

WASHINGTON (AP)—An enraged President Donald Trump and a prominent Republican senator who fears the country could be edging toward “chaos” engaged in an intense and vitriolic back-and-forth bashing on social media Sunday, a remarkable airing of their party’s profound rifts.

In political discourse that might once have seemed inconceivable, the GOP’s foreign policy expert in the Senate felt compelled to answer his president’s barbs by tweeting: “It’s a shame the White House has become an adult day care center. Someone obviously missed their shift this morning.”

In an interview Sunday with The New York Times, Corker said Trump could set the U.S. “on the path to World War III” with threats toward other countries. Corker also said Trump acted as if he was on his old reality-TV show and that he concerned the senator, adding: “He would have to concern anyone who cares about our nation.”

Corker also said his concerns about Trump were shared by nearly every Sen-



Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chats with reporters at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017. Corker, a two-term senator, announced today that he will not run for re-election in 2018. AP

ate Republican, the paper reported.

In a series of stinging tweets earlier in the day, Trump contended Corker:

■ Was “largely responsible

for the horrendous” Iran nuclear deal, which the Democratic Obama administration negotiated and Corker considered badly flawed. The senator also tried to require that President

Barack Obama submit the accord to Congress for approval.

■ Intended to obstruct the White House agenda, though he offered no evidence for saying he expected Corker “to

be a negative voice.”

■ “Begged” for Trump’s endorsement in his 2018 re-election, then opted against seeking a third term when Trump declined, showing the senator “didn’t have the guts to run.” The Associated Press reported that Trump, in a private meeting in September, had urged Corker to run. Corker’s chief of staff, Todd Womack, said Sunday that Trump called Corker last Monday to ask that he reconsider his decision to leave the Senate. Trump “reaffirmed that he would have endorsed him, as he has said many times,” the aide said.

■ Wanted to be secre-

FBI searches Las Vegas gunman’s house again

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Federal investigators returned to search the home of Las Vegas gunman Stephen Paddock on Sunday, while the officers who raided his hotel room door the night of the shooting gave a harrowing account of a barricaded door they had to bust through and the booby-traps they feared they’d find.

The search of Paddock’s three-bedroom house on a cul-de-sac in a retirement community in Mesquite, Nevada, was for “re-documenting and rechecking,” said local police Chief Troy Tanner, who accompanied FBI agents as they served the search warrant.

“I don’t think they are after anything specific,” Tanner told The Associated Press. “They’re going through everything and photographing everything again.”

The home was first searched Monday by Las Vegas police, who said they found 19 guns and several pounds of potentially explosive materials at the house that Paddock bought in early 2015.

The search came exactly a week after Paddock opened fire on a country music crowd, killing 58 and injuring nearly 500.

Meanwhile, the makeshift SWAT team of police officers who made it to Paddock’s

door at the Mandalay Bay hotel casino 12 minutes after the first shots were fired described how they got there and the “gun store” they found inside in an appearance on the CBS television program “60 Minutes” on Sunday night.

One of them said he hurried from police headquarters to the Mandalay Bay in cowboy boots and ditched them before ascending to the 32nd floor in search of the gunman.

“I just threw them in the casino,” Detective Matthew Donaldson said. “That was slowing me down. I was faster barefoot, and I was gonna be more effective barefoot.”

The officers said they heard reports of gunmen on both the 29th and 32nd floor, so “we’re thinking multiple shooters at this point,” Sgt. Joshua Bitsko said.

They zeroed in on the 32nd floor after Paddock unleashed about 200 rounds at a security guard outside his door.

When they got to the stairwell door on that floor near Paddock’s room, they found he had taken special measures to slow them down.

“He had screwed shut the door — with a piece of metal and some screws,” Bitsko said. “Cause he knew we’d be coming out that door to gain entry

that at the time.

“There’s a room service cart with wires going on it underneath the door,” Officer Dave Newton said. “There was something black on top of the cart. So initially I’m, you know, I’m thinking, ‘This is a booby-trap. It’s, it’s going to explode.’”

■ Wanted to be secre-

Indigenous Peoples Day? Italians say stick with Columbus

NEW YORK (AP)—Is it time to say arrivederci to Christopher Columbus?

A movement to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day has gained momentum in some parts of the U.S., with Los Angeles in August becoming the biggest city yet to decide to stop honoring the Italian explorer and instead recognize victims of colonialism.

Austin, Texas, followed suit Thursday. It joined cities including San Francisco, Seattle and Denver, which had previously booted Columbus in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day.

But the gesture to recognize indigenous people rather than the man who opened the Americas to European domination also has prompted howls of outrage from some

Italian-Americans, who say eliminating their festival of ethnic pride is culturally insensitive, too.

“We had a very difficult time in this country for well over a hundred years,” said Basil Russo, president of the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America. “Columbus Day is a day that we’ve chosen to celebrate who we are. And we’re entitled to do that just as they are entitled to celebrate who they are.”

It’s not about taking anything away from Italian-Americans, said Cliff Matias, cultural director of the Redhawk Native American Arts Council, which is hosting a Re-Thinking Columbus Day event Sunday and Monday in New York.

“The conversation is Columbus,” he said. “If they’re

going to celebrate Columbus, we need to celebrate the fact that we survived Columbus.”

The debate over Columbus’ historical legacy is an old one, but it became emotionally charged after a similar debate in the South over monuments to Confederate generals flared into deadly violence in August at a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In Akron, Ohio, a September vote over whether to dump Columbus opened a racial rift on the city council that was so heated conflict mediators were brought in to soothe tensions.

In New York, where 35,000 people are expected to march in Monday’s Columbus Day parade, vandals last month doused the hands of a Christopher Columbus statue in blood-red paint and scrawled

the words “hate will not be tolerated.” Activists calling for the city to change the parade’s name also are expected to hold a demonstration.

On Sunday, three demonstrators briefly interrupted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Columbus statue in Columbus Circle. The protesters, two dressed in fake chains and one wearing a hooded white sheet, spoke out before being escorted away. Police said one person was arrested.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, appointed a committee to evaluate whether monuments to certain historical figures should be removed, prompting a backlash from fellow Italian-Americans who vowed to defend the Columbus statue, which has stood over Columbus Circle for more than a century.

Asia

Duterte losing favor amid drug killings, wealth allegations

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipinos' satisfaction with President Rodrigo Duterte has made its steepest drop since he took office last year amid an outcry over unabated drug killings and unresolved allegations that he has unexplained wealth, an independent poll showed.

The Social Weather Stations said its Sept. 23-27 nationwide survey showed Duterte's satisfaction rating dropping by 18 points to 48, a level classified as "good," compared from its last survey in June, when he got a "very good" 66-point rating.

The president's trust rating dropped by 15 points to 60, which is classified as "very good," from his "excellent" grade of 75 points in June, according to the SWS poll released Sunday.

Although Duterte generally remains popular, the survey outcome immediately reignited calls by several groups for an end to the killings of mostly poor suspects under his brutal crackdown against illegal drugs and for him to sign a bank secrecy waiver to allow an investigation into allegations of undeclared wealth.

An alliance of civil society groups called Tindig Pilipinas said the steep drop in Duterte's satisfaction and trust ratings means the "honeymoon is over."

"The huge drop in the presi-



In this Oct. 5, 2017 file photo, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, right, listens to Special Assistant to the President Christopher Bong Go, during the change of command ceremony for the new army chief Maj. Gen. Rolando Joselito Bautista in Fort Bonifacio in, Taguig city, east of Manila, Philippines. AP

he has publicly threatened drug dealers with death. He won the presidency with a wide margin last year on a pledge to eradicate widespread crimes, especially drug trafficking and use, and corruption.

Police officials said the arrests of more than 100,000 suspected drug offenders in 71,393 anti-drug raids since July last year help prove that suspects only get killed when they fight back and threaten law enforcers.

The drug killings recently came under renewed criticisms after police shot to death a teenage student they said was a drug dealer who drew a gun while being arrested. Witnesses, however, said the student was shot to death in a dark alley while pleading for his life.

Duterte has also denied stashing undeclared funds in joint bank accounts with family members, saying he would resign if the allegations were proven. He has refused, however, to heed a demand by opposition Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV for him to sign a waiver to allow investigators to examine the bank accounts.

SWS polled 1,500 adults nationwide in face-to-face interviews for the survey, which had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Trial in Kim murder visits lab to examine VX-tainted clothes

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Malaysian court holding the trial of two women accused of killing the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader moved temporarily Monday to a high-security laboratory to view evidence contaminated with VX nerve agent.

Judges often visit crime scenes in Malaysia, and in this case the move was made after a government chemist testified last week that the VX he found on the women's clothing may still be active.

His testimony was the first evidence linking VX to Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam, who are accused of smearing the nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a Kuala Lumpur airport terminal on Feb. 13.

After the lab visit, defense lawyers are expected to cross-examine the chemist, Raja Subramaniam, who has testified VX was present on the women's clothing as well as on Kim Jong Nam's face, eyes, clothing, and in his blood and

urine samples.

This week, prosecutors say they will present airport security videos that show the two women carrying out the attack and indicate they knew they were handling poison.

Defense lawyers have said the women were duped by suspected North Korean agents into believing they were playing a harmless prank for a hidden TV-camera show.

Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam and Siti Aisyah of Indonesia pleaded not guilty at the start of their trial last week to charges of murder that carry a mandatory death sentence if they are convicted.

Kim, the eldest son in the current generation of North Korea's dynastic rulers, was believed to be a family outcast who may have been perceived as a threat by the nation's leader, his youngest sibling Kim Jong Un.

VX is banned by an international treaty as a weapon of mass destruction but is believed to be part of North Korea's chemical weapons arsenal.

dent's rating must serve notice to him: the people expect nothing but the truth on the allegations of corruption, ill-gotten wealth, and drug smuggling facilitation leveled against him and members of his family," the alliance said. "Mr. President, we reiterate our call: sign the bank waiver!"

"The people are now seeing through the hype and fake news, and are realizing that change is not coming under President Duterte's watch," left-wing Rep. Emmi de Jesus said, citing "nonstop" drug killings, the rise in prices of

commodities and the entry of a large shipment of illegal drugs through the Bureau of Customs in Manila.

There was no immediate comment from Duterte, but he has repeatedly denied that he condones extrajudicial killings of drug suspects even though

ASIAN BRIEFS

Former PM Sharif's son-in-law arrested on return to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's anti-corruption authorities have arrested the son-in-law of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in connection with corruption cases pending against him. A Cabinet minister Talal Chaudhry says Mohammad Safdar was arrested from the Islamabad airport early Monday on his arrival from London. The development came hours before Safdar and his wife Maryam Nawaz were to appear before an anti-graft tribunal. She was not detained and later reached the court. Sharif, his daughter, his son-in-law and his two sons face corruption cases after an investigation into documents leaked from a Panama law firm indicated that Sharif

and some of his family members had undisclosed assets abroad. Sharif was disqualified from office in July.

At party meeting, Kim Jong Un's sister gets promotion

TOKYO (AP)—Kim Jong Un has promoted his younger sister to a new post within North Korea's ruling party. The promotion of Kim Yo Jong came at a meeting of senior party members as North Korea marked the 20th anniversary of Kim Jong Il's acceptance of the title of general secretary of the ruling Worker's Party of Korea. Kim Yo Jong was made an alternate member of the decision-making political bureau of the party's central committee. The late Kim Jong Il, North Korea's "eternal general sec-

etary," is the father of Kim Jong Un and Kim Yo Jong. Thousands of people, mostly students, packed Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang to dance and watch fireworks to mark the anniversary on Sunday night. Earlier in the day, North Korean state media announced that the country's top leadership had gathered the day before, headed by current leader Kim Jong Un.

Police: At least 12 dead in capsizing of boat of Rohingya

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh (AP)—An overcrowded boat carrying Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar capsized in the confluence of a river and the Bay of Bengal and at least 12 people died, police said Monday. Five of the dead were children. Up

to 35 people were on the boat and eight survived the capsizing, local police official Mainuddin Khan said. He said rescuers have retrieved 12 dead bodies but it was not exactly clear how many were missing. The search was continuing, but the sea remained rough. The capsizing occurred near the Shah Porir Dwip in Bangladesh's southern coastal district of Cox's Bazar as the boat was moving toward Bangladesh late Sunday. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya have fled Myanmar since Aug. 25 when the military launched a crackdown that had been decried by the United Nations as "ethnic cleansing." Including Sunday's capsizing, boat accidents have killed at least 155 Rohingya trying to reach Bangladesh.

World

Sao Paulo struggles to end 'Crackland' drug market

SAO PAULO (AP)—Every day, the addicts who occupy "Crackland," a square in the center of Sao Paulo where drugs are sold and smoked in broad daylight, pick up their blankets and tents and move across the street to let city sanitation workers clean the area.

And then every day, the group returns. All the while, police look on.

This daily ballet persists four months after authorities launched a major operation to end Crackland for good, arresting scores of dealers and sealing off abandoned buildings they had occupied—sometimes using rubber bullets and tear gas in clashes in the area.

For the two decades that this city within a city has existed, politicians have been trying to get rid of it: first by brute force and more recently with a program that offered addicts housing and cash handouts in hopes of helping them kick their addiction and leave Crackland.

Mayor Joao Doria, a media magnate and political newcomer who took office in January, changed course again, with a program that focuses on offering drug users in-patient treatment coupled with the police raid in May in which he declared Crackland was "finished" and "would not come



AP

In this Sept. 14, 2017 photo, a woman smokes crack in an area popularly known as "Crackland" in downtown Sao Paulo, Brazil.

back." Yet it persists, and experts say there is no simple way to get rid of it.

"Any mayor or any president or anyone can say that the situation will be solved overnight, but this is not true," said Francisco Inacio Bastos, a researcher at the Fiocruz institute who led the last national crack study. "Without sus-

tained action, everything will come back again."

Brazil is likely the world's largest market for crack cocaine, according to the U.S. State Department. Its largest city, Sao Paulo is home to intense poverty and homelessness and to the nation's biggest criminal organization, which plays a vital role in moving

cocaine from the Andes producer countries to the streets of Europe. Those factors provide Crackland with both its supply of the drug and ample demand for it among Sao Paulo's downtrodden and homeless.

The first thing visitors to Crackland notice is the smell—of urine and body odor—which wafts as far as a block from its edge. From afar, it appears foreboding. However, Crackland is also a vibrant

community, where people sell food and used clothing, catch up with friends and joke with social workers.

This feeling of inclusion may contribute to Crackland's durability. In the wake of the May police action, Crackland has moved twice and is now near its original location. Roberta Costa, an activist and a master's degree candidate at the University of Sao Paulo who studies Crackland, said

Spanish unionists find their voice in huge Barcelona rally

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Spanish unionists in Catalonia finally found their voice on Sunday, resurrecting Spain's flag as a symbol of patriotism after decades of it being associated with the Franco dictatorship.

In a defiant challenge to plans by Catalonia's regional government to unilaterally declare independence, hundreds of thousands of people flooded the streets of Barcelona in a surprising outpouring of Spanish unity.

They chanted "Don't be fooled, Catalonia is Spain" and called for regional president Carles Puigdemont to go to prison for holding an illegal referendum last week. Some of the demonstrators took to rooftops, including families with children, and leaned over ledges from their perches overlooking the streets below to wave giant Spanish flags in a city accustomed to the prevalence of the Catalan pro-independence "estelada."

Spain's red-and-yellow flag has long been taboo here in Catalonia and throughout the country because it has been linked to groups supportive of Gen. Francisco Franco's dicta-

torship. But on Sunday, a sea of Spanish flags, interspersed with some Catalan and European Union flags, dominated Barcelona's boulevards.

Barcelona police said 350,000 people participated, while march organizers Societat Civil Catalana said that 930,000 people turned out. The march was peaceful and no major incidents were reported.

Puigdemont has pledged to push ahead for independence and is set to address the regional parliament on Tuesday "to report on the current political situation." In the days after the Oct. 1 referendum, the momentum appeared to be on his side. Pro-independence protests were attracting large numbers and he benefited politically from a violent crackdown by Spanish police during the referendum voting.

But now the tide seems to be turning. Catalonia's top two banks announced they were relocating their headquarters to other parts of Spain because of financial uncertainty if there is an independence declaration.

Other companies are reportedly considering leaving Catalonia to avoid being cast out of

the EU and its common market in the case of secession.

And Sunday's mass demonstration by pro-unity Catalans, under the slogan of "Let's recover our common sense!" will put further pressure on Puigdemont. The march was the largest pro-unionist showing since the rise of separatist sentiment in the prosperous northeastern region that has pushed Spain to the brink of a national crisis.

The rally comes a week after the Catalan government went ahead and held a referendum on secession that Spain's top court had suspended and the Spanish government said was illegal.

Catalan authorities say the "Yes" side won the referendum with 90 percent of the vote, though only 43 percent of the region's 5.3 million eligible voters turned out in polling that was marred by police raids of polling stations on orders to confiscate ballot boxes.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy vows that his government will not allow Catalonia, which represents a fifth of Spain's economy, to break away from the rest of the country.

ISTANBUL (AP)—The U.S. said Sunday it was suspending non-immigrant visa services at its diplomatic facilities in Turkey following the arrest of a consulate employee, prompting Turkey to halt visa services in the U.S.

The U.S. Embassy in the capital of Ankara tweeted a statement from the U.S. Mission to Turkey saying that recent events have forced it to "reassess the commitment of the Government of Turkey to the security of U.S. Mission facilities and personnel."

The Turkish Embassy in Washington responded with a similar statement on Twitter late Sunday and said it would "reassess the commitment of the Government of the United States to the security of Turkish mission facilities and personnel." It said the measures would apply to e-Visas, visas issued at borders and visas in passports.

This week, Turkish authorities arrested a U.S. Consulate employee of Turkish nationality for alleged links to the

network of U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who the Turkish government blames for last summer's failed coup. Gulen denies involvement.

Metin Topuz is accused of espionage and "attempting to overthrow the Turkish government and constitution."

Turkey's official Anadolu news agency reported that he allegedly communicated with former police chiefs in a 2013 corruption probe, 121 people involved in the attempted coup and hundreds of people using an encrypted mobile messaging application. The U.S. Embassy said it was "deeply disturbed" by the arrest.

Hamza Ulucay, a translator of the U.S. Consulate in the southern province of Adana, was arrested in March for alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militants.

The U.S. statement said the suspension of non-immigrant visa services was "effective immediately" to minimize visitor numbers to the U.S. Embassy and Consulate for now. The suspended services

will affect business, tourism, medical treatment, student exchange visitor, crew member, media and journalist, treaty trader, diplomatic and official visas.

Relations between Turkey and the U.S. have been tense over disagreements on Syrian Kurdish militants, which the U.S. backs in the war against the Islamic State group. Turkey considers them a terror group and an extension of the Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK, which has waged an insurgency within Turkey's borders for more than 30 years.

An infamous brawl during Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to DC in May led to an indictment charging 19 people, including 15 Turkish security officials, of conspiracy to commit a crime of violence. Erdogan called the indictment "scandalous" and said his security detail was protecting him against Kurdish militants protesting outside his ambassador's residence.

Focus

'She was pure joy': Friends mourn woman killed in Las Vegas



Candles and flowers frame her portrait at a vigil for Nicol Kimura, a victim of the Las Vegas mass shooting, at Sierra Vista Elementary School in Placentia, Calif., Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017. AP

By AMY TAXIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PLACENTIA, Calif. (AP)—In the days since the shooting, it's been hard to sleep. They laugh watching cellphone videos of their fun-loving friend singing along to Bon Jovi. Moments later, they break down crying, clutching one another's hands.

They went to Las Vegas to dance at a country music festival, seven members of a group of friends so close they call themselves "framily."

They came back only six.

Now, a week after the massacre that stole 58 lives, including the one that mattered most to them, they try to carry on because they know that's what 38-year-old Nicol Kimura would have wanted. They pose for a picture in front of a backyard block wall still graffitied in her handwriting: Kimura had led a group workout one weekend, scribbling "ropes," "wall squats," "curls" in blue chalk.

"The sun is the source of energy for everything else, right?" said Ryan Miller, one of the friends who survived. "That was her."

Kimura was the one who would have helped them stay strong. But she's gone and they're still here, left mourning a best friend while wrestling with their own memories of that beautiful evening that in an instant turned into a

slaughter.

■■■

Kimura was a relative newcomer to the group, many of whom grew up on the same street in Yorba Linda, in northern Orange County.

She was raised in nearby Placentia, where she played sports and was a high school cheerleader before heading to college. She loved hiking and her dog, Sadie, whom she'd take for nightly runs at a nearby park, said her cousin, Cynthia Kimura Donato.

After one of the neighborhood buddies married Kimura's longtime friend, she quickly became one of the gang.

By then, they had all grown older and their circle had expanded to more than a dozen who gathered on weekends for pool parties or trips to the beach. They even made up their own celebrations — an annual friendship dinner at Thanksgiving time and an international-themed potluck modeled after a popular street fair that had gotten too crowded.

Kimura, who worked for a California tax agency, was loud and lively. She planned tea parties for her friends' children and had them paint stars-and-stripes candleholders on the Fourth of July.

"When she came in, she kind of took charge," said Chad Elliot, whose backyard was home to the workout session. "She was the life of the

party without needing attention."

When seven in the group planned to head to the Route 91 Harvest festival in Las Vegas — which was fast becoming yet another of the group's annual traditions — Kimura had special T-shirts printed for each one listing their favorite drinks. They wore them their second night at the festival.

The next morning, they headed to the pool at the Mandalay Bay hotel for a day of relaxation before a final night of music.

The group had decided to make it a red-white-and-blue-themed night, and Kimura, who loved crafts and decorating, had dressed in colorful tank tops for the occasion.

■■■

Country music concerts were among the friends' favorites. The songs and crowds were upbeat, and they always ran into old friends and made new ones.

Kimura was standing with Elliot and friend Tracy Gyurina not too far from the stage, enjoying the outdoor music in the crowd of 22,000 people.

Then the friends heard a popping sound and thought it might be a broken speaker. The noise returned. The lights went dark. Singer Jason Aldean was rushed from the stage.

People screamed and dropped to the ground.

What happened next was a blur. Bullets pinged off

bleachers by the stage. Men threw themselves in front of women, hoping to shield them from what they then knew was gunfire.

They thought an assailant was running toward them. They thought they'd be shot any moment.

The friends huddled together, hands over their heads.

Kimura told them she couldn't feel her legs. There was blood on her top.

"I just remember telling her, 'We're going to be OK, baby girl,'" Gyurina said. "And just telling her, 'I love you.' 'We got this.'"

The crowd began to move during breaks in the gunfire. The friends scattered as people fled toward exits and hid under the bleachers.

Elliot tried to move Kimura but couldn't. And so he stayed there, the bullets flying.

"I was just waiting to get hit, but I wasn't going to leave her," he said.

Finally, a man came over and said he was a doctor. He started chest compressions and told Elliot how and when to assist. The man kept going for a while, then turned to Elliot and stopped.

"He said there was nothing else that we could do."

Elliot stood up. By then, it was eerily quiet on the concert grounds. There was hardly anyone around him.

■■■

Elliot and Gyurina called

and found each other, dazed, outside a nearby convenience store. They swapped texts with others in the group, relieved to know they had escaped.

Elliot phoned Kimura's dad. He told him she had been shot.

Her family rushed to Las Vegas and headed to the city's convention center, where they and Gyurina fielded questions about what Kimura looked like and what she wore.

The friends were hoping for a miracle. They couldn't bear to see Kimura's bags in their hotel room. They couldn't stand leaving the city without her.

It wasn't until Monday night that officials confirmed what they all knew in their hearts: Kimura was among those killed by Stephen Paddock from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay.

By then, Elliot, Gyurina and the other friends had returned to California. They began dealing with the shock.

They found bullet holes in the hat Miller's wife wore to the concert. They comforted their children, who were devastated to learn they wouldn't see Kimura again.

Several days later, they hadn't returned to work, nor had they much time to dwell on the trauma of what they'd survived; they were still trying to cope with the loss of their friend.

Sometimes they turn on the television, anxious for

updates on the investigation. Elliot said when he saw footage from the shooting, he felt mostly numb. For friend Casey Bodwell, a loud sound or a touching post online can bring it all back.

"Everything just kind of comes in waves, like you try to find some sense of norm — I don't even know the word right now — normalcy?" Gyurina said. "But then all of a sudden something happens and it just hits you, and then you're on the ground having to pick yourself back up again."

The group started raising money to help cover Kimura's funeral costs. At least 200 people gathered Sunday evening outside an elementary school in Placentia for a candlelight vigil to remember Kimura's glowing smile and love of life, and how she touched those she had just met as well as those she knew for years.

Kimura is survived by her parents and a sister, as well as her close group of friends.

Some in the group have tickets to another country-western show later this month, but Gyurina said she isn't sure they'll go. But she said their November "Friendsgiving" dinner will go on as planned, as Kimura would want it to.

"If it was somebody else, as devastated as she would have been," Miller said, "she would have been the one to rally us back."

Overdrive

2018 Honda Accord very much the gold standard

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BRETTON WOODS, N.H.—

Pulling up to the Omni Mount Washington Resort in Bretton Woods, N.H., my initial thoughts were of the fictional Overlook Hotel from the Stephen King novel, "The Shining." If a staffer would have greeted me by saying, "All work and no play makes Larry a dull boy," I'd have left — quickly.

The imposing resort was conceived by local coal broker Joseph Stickney. Two-hundred-and-fifty workers spent two years building the Spanish Renaissance style hotel, which opened in 1902 and provided the backdrop for the Bretton Woods international monetary conference in 1944.

Never heard of it? You're not alone.

But it was an important moment in financial history, one that saw representatives from 44 countries convene at this remote resort nestled in the White Mountains to solve a problem.

Until World War I, nations valued their currency to a fixed amount of gold, meaning central banks promised to exchange their paper currencies for the precious metal. It worked until World War I, when it became apparent that there wasn't enough gold to back all of the world's paper. This, along with faulty monetary policies that followed, led to the Great Depression of the 1930s. Only World War II, followed by the three-week conference held here, steadied the world's financial systems.

The result was the Bretton Woods Agreement, which created the International Mone-

try Fund and the World Bank — two institutions still with us. It also linked all currencies to the dollar, which was linked to gold. Eventually, the gold standard was too tough for even the U.S. In 1971, President Richard Nixon abandoned it.

Yet the gold standard is a concept that's still very much with us, whether talking about the U.S. economy or the products that populate it, making Bretton Woods the perfect venue for Honda to reveal its redesigned 2018 Accord. By any measure, the 10th-generation Accord is the gold standard among midsize sedans.

Need proof? OK. Consider that the Honda Accord outsells 30 brands in the U.S. If it were a brand, it would rank 12th, just ahead of Dodge, Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz. In fact, it's more popular than every SUV in America except Honda's own CR-V and the Toyota RAV4.

Given that SUVs have contributed to the decline in popularity of midsize cars, automakers are endowing their mass-market four doors with more personality in an effort to retain the faithful, offering up some extreme redesigns, such as the 2018 Toyota Camry, the only car that, for now, outsells the Accord.

Thankfully, the redesigned Accord remains elegantly extroverted and, for 2018, it's lower and wider but shorter, even though it looks longer than the car it replaces. However, the wheelbase has been lengthened, which pays dividends inside. Passenger volume increases by 2.5 cubic feet to 105.7 cubic feet, while cargo space grows nearly 1 cu-



The 2018 Honda Accord is the gold standard among midsize sedans.

TNS

bic foot to 16.7 cubic feet.

Designers also lowered the front seats while adding padding to the side of the center console for when your leg rests against it. This is a small detail, but one worth you'll appreciate if you're taller. Meanwhile, rear legroom is generous, although seat height seems a little low. All seats can be fitted with seat heaters, while front passengers get seat ventilators. One sour note: The front passenger seat lacks a seat bottom tilt, even on top trims, making it somewhat uncomfortable for longer trips.

Drivers face a comfortably thick steering wheel that is nestled in a horizontally themed instrument panel that has an upscale feel. A large infotainment screen with two large knobs caps the center stack. While the system's easy to operate, Apple CarPlay didn't work properly

NUTS & BOLTS

- Base prices: \$23,750-\$35,800
- Engine: 1.5-liter or 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder
- Horsepower: 192; 252
- Torque: 192; 273 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy: Not rated
- Wheelbase: 111.4 inches
- Length: 192.4 inches
- Cargo capacity: 16.7 cubic feet
- Curb weight: Not available
- NHTSA rating: Not rated

a problem common to the Honda Civic but not one that I've experienced with other Honda makes. Nevertheless, you can get an Accord with an embedded navigation system with traffic sign recognition,

from the 2017 Civic Type R. It produces 252 horsepower and 273 pound-feet of torque. That's down 23 horsepower from last year's V-6 but up 21 pound-feet of torque. It's mated to a Honda-developed 10-speed automatic transmission or six-speed manual on Sport models. Come the new year, Honda will also offer a new Accord Hybrid.

As you'd expect, the 2.0-liter has plenty of power and the 10-speed delivers creamy, unobtrusive shifts. Remarkably, in hard acceleration from a dead stop in Sport mode, the transmission keeps the power flowing by staying at top of rev range with each shift. Engine roar remains impressively muted except in Sport mode, and road noise is unobtrusive.

When paired with the nicely finished interior, the Accord feels above its station.

That feeling is enhanced by the suspension behavior, which remains flat in corners without the trade-off of a punishing ride. In fact, bump absorption is better than you'd expect given the car's athletic abilities. Drive it over train tracks and you'll see; they're almost unnoticeable. Sport mode never renders the ride punishing, while Normal mode never becomes mushy. It's a bravura performance for a mainstream sedan.

The 1.5-liter is down some on power compared to the 2.0-liter but still has more than enough for most buyers. Still, you'll be asking for power more often, and the engine is more vocal in all circumstances. The CVT is very well-behaved and performs like a conventional transmission when shifted manually.

UNDER THE HOOD:

Taking the environment into consideration

By BRAD BERGHOULD
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I believe global warming will destroy our planet. If you agree, I would like to see your responses to readers better reflect concerns for the environment.

In a recent reply, you suggested a reader choose a larger engine for its supposed longevity over a smaller, more fuel-efficient option. In support of this advice, you talked only about the expenses involved. Given that your advice influences the thoughts of many people, I ask you to consider mentioning the environmental impacts of such decisions.

— Leo

A: Good stuff, Leo! I'll try to better consider the environment in my answers.

In the case of the larger engine for the truck, I think it's justified, as one should go with the most suitable engine for the task at hand — in this case, heavy hauling. If I were this driver, however, I'd try to drive a Prius or Leaf during my daily commute and other light-duty trips and save the carbon dioxide-belching truck for its intended purpose.

Let's look at some things the typical vehicle owner can do to reduce their environmental footprint:

CONSOLIDATE TRIPS OR

CARPOOL

Engines emit far more pollutants and burn more fuel when they are cold-started. Combining errands leads to more warm starts. Under such conditions, the engine's combustion process, rather than wastefully letting hydrocarbons pass through unburned, creates torque by burning air and hydrocarbons.

MAINTAIN CORRECT TIRE PRESSURE, DRIVE STRATEGICALLY

Underinflated tires roll less easily across pavement, wasting fuel. And by anticipating the traffic ahead, you can avoid unnecessary braking and accelerating, which are

also fuel-wasters.

PERFORM PRESCRIBED VEHICLE MAINTENANCE, PARTICULARLY ENGINE-RELATED ITEMS

Worn sparkplugs, dirty fuel injectors, and carbon-coated pistons and valves can lead to misfiring, wasting fuel, and significantly increased exhaust emissions. A dirty air filter or clogged crankcase ventilation system can also waste fuel and increase emissions.

Change oil as specified to keep the variable valve timing system fully functional. Look for and fix fluid leaks so coolant and various lubricants don't find their way to storm drains and our bays and oceans. Fix a leaking air conditioning system right the first

time so it doesn't continue leaking refrigerant and require repeated recharging.

At any sign of engine chugging or shaking, seek repairs right away to prevent massive hydrocarbon emissions and damage to the catalytic converter. An illuminated check engine or service engine soon light indicates an engine or transmission management fault is perceived to be increasing emissions more than 50 percent above federal test standards. A flashing check engine light indicates a catalyst-threatening (severe) misfire is occurring. Consider a tow or try a more gentle path home that might drop the lamp back to being continuously on (less severe or no misfire).

Purchasing a newer ve-

hicle, perhaps a hybrid, virtually guarantees less smog and greenhouse gasses emitted, in addition to less fuel consumed. In addition to fuel economy ratings, look at and compare a prospective new vehicle's emissions information on the window sticker.

There'll be ratings for carbon dioxide/greenhouse gas emissions and smog. A larger engine typically emits more grams of emissions per mile than a small one, in addition to using more fuel.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Film producer Harvey Weinstein ousted from Weinstein Co.

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein, the sharp-elbowed movie producer whose combative reign in Hollywood made him an Academy Awards regular, was fired from The Weinstein Company on Sunday following an exposé that detailed decades of sexual harassment allegations made against Weinstein by actresses and employees.

In a statement, the company's board of directors announced his firing Sunday night, capping the swift downfall of one of Hollywood's most powerful producers and expelling him from the company he co-created.

"In light of new information

about misconduct by Harvey Weinstein that has emerged in the past few days, the directors of The Weinstein Company—Robert Weinstein, Lance Mae-rov, Richard Koenigsberg and Tarak Ben Ammar—have determined, and have informed Harvey Weinstein, that his employment with The Weinstein Company is terminated, effective immediately," the company's board said in a statement on Sunday night.

Weinstein had previously taken an indefinite leave of absence following the revelation of at least eight allegations of sexual harassment uncovered in an exposé Thursday by The New York Times. The

board on Friday endorsed that decision and announced an investigation into the allegations, saying it would determine the co-chairman's future with the company.

But the Weinstein Co. board, which includes Weinstein's brother, went further on Sunday, firing the executive who has always been its primary operator, public face and studio chief. Under his leadership, the Weinstein Co. has been a dominant force at the Oscars, including the rare feat of winning back-to-back best picture Academy Awards with "The



King's Speech" and "The Artist." In recent years, however, Weinstein's status has diminished because of money shortages, disappointing box-office returns and executive departures.

An attorney for Weinstein didn't immediately return messages Sunday.

A spokesperson for The Weinstein Co. declined to provide further details on Weinstein's firing. Messages left for attorney John Keiran of the firm Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, who had been appointed to lead an investi-

gation, weren't immediately returned Sunday.

Weinstein on Thursday issued a lengthy statement that acknowledged causing "a lot of pain." He also asked for "a second chance." But Weinstein and his lawyers also criticized The New York Times' report in statements and interviews, and vowed an aggressive response. The New York Times said it was "confident in the accuracy of our reporting."

The New York Times article chronicled sexual harassment settlements Weinstein made with film star Ashley Judd and former employees at both The Weinstein Co. and Weinstein's former company, Miramax. Weinstein made his name with Miramax, the company he founded with his brother Bob in 1979. They sold it to Disney in 1993 for \$60 million.

The company was a fixture of the 1990s independent film movement, launching the careers of filmmakers Quentin Tarantino, Kevin Smith and Steven Soderbergh, and winning best picture with "Shakespeare in Love" and "The English Patient."

The allegations triggered cascading chaos at the Weinstein Co. Numerous members of its all-male board have stepped down since Thursday. The prominent attorney Lisa Bloom, daughter of well-known Los Angeles women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, on Saturday withdrew from

representing Weinstein, as did another adviser, Lanny Davis.

Pressure to act continued to mount on the board as more developments followed. Congressional Democrats, including Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, donated to charities thousands of dollars in donations they had received from Weinstein.

TV anchor Lauren Sivan on Friday detailed an alleged 2007 encounter with Weinstein in a HuffPost report. Sivan, then working at a New York cable channel, Long Island 12, alleged that Weinstein cornered her in the hallway of a Manhattan restaurant closed to the public and masturbated in front of her.

Sivan said she had rejected an attempt by Weinstein to kiss her. "Well, can you just stand there and shut up," she claims he responded.

Bob Weinstein and David Glasser, chief operating officer, are now running The Weinstein Co. But it remains to be seen not only if the company can continue without its prominent producer but also whether it can weather questions of culpability in its former co-chairman's behavior. In reaction to Thursday's report, many in Hollywood called Weinstein's behavior "an open secret." The settlement funds paid out also may have come from The Weinstein Co.

Actress claims Weinstein asked her to audition in a bikini

By NICOLE BITETTE
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

English actress Jessica Hynes detailed an alleged creepy encounter with Harvey Weinstein just after he was accused of sexually harassing a number of women over the last three decades.

Hynes, who starred in the British sitcom "Spaced," recalled her experience with the movie mogul in the wake of the allegations.

"I was offered a film role at 19, Harvey Weinstein came on board and wanted me to screen test in a bikini. I refused & lost the job," she wrote on Twitter Friday.

The 44-year-old also re-

sponded to a user who replied saying he had heard the story before but never knew who it was about.

"I'm sure there are many more ... " Hynes added.

The actress' comments come just one day after the New York Times published a bombshell report outlining alleged acts of sexual harassment by Weinstein, 65, over the span of his career.

Actress Ashley Judd detailed her alleged experience, noting that Weinstein invited her to the Peninsula Beverly Hills for what she had thought was a breakfast meeting, but instead, Weinstein had her sent to his suite and asked her to give him a massage.

He also reportedly offered Judd the option to watch him shower, the actress told The Times.

"I said no, a lot of ways, a lot of times, and he always came back at me with some new ask," Judd, 49, said. "It was all this bargaining, this coercive bargaining."

"Women have been talking about Harvey amongst ourselves for a long time, and it's simply beyond time to have the conversation publicly," she added.

Actress Rose McGowan was also mentioned in the report with The Times claiming Weinstein reached a \$100,000 settlement with her in 1997 after an incident at

the Sundance Film Festival.

In a statement responding to the allegations, Weinstein said: "I appreciate the way I've behaved with colleagues in the past has caused a lot of pain, and I sincerely apologize for it."

He also announced he would be taking a leave of absence.

A lawyer for the independent film business honcho told the Daily News that they are prepping a lawsuit against The Times.

"All proceeds will be donated to women's organizations," Charles Harder said in a statement to The News, declaring that the story was "saturated with false and defamatory statements."

French president inaugurates major Picasso exhibition



France's President Emmanuel Macron visits the "Picasso 1932: Erotic Year" exhibition at the Picasso museum in Paris, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017.

er, but also many documents, archives and photos.

Macron noted Picasso could "live up to three or

four lives at the same time," sharing his time between his wife, Olga Khokhlova, and his mistress, "which wasn't

going without some kind of violence for everyone."

Macron said he has a very strong personal memory of

discovering Picasso's paintings for the first time in a museum in his hometown of Amiens in northern France, at

the age of 12 or 13.

"I can tell you that for the young teenager I was ... this was an event. I do remember it very well. I was moved, hit," he told reporters.

Macron said that it would be "great" if a Picasso painting could be displayed at the Elysee presidential palace.

"I would like, indeed, open the Elysee to modern, contemporary painters and other artists. This is a project," he said.

The curator of the exhibition, Laurence Madeline, said that 1932 was "decisive" for Picasso who turned 51 that year—"an important moment in the middle of his existence, and the year of his first retrospective including 30 years of artwork since his youth."

The exhibition "Picasso 1932. Erotic Year" at the Picasso National Museum in Paris runs from Oct. 10 to Feb. 11.

It is then scheduled to open at the Tate Modern in London, which co-organized the show, from March 8 to Sept. 9.

'Blade Runner 2049' pulls in older guys but few others

NEW YORK (AP)—"Blade Runner 2049" had the pedigree, the stars and the stellar reviews. But even though the highly touted sequel had seemingly everything going for it, something didn't click with audiences.

The big-budget, handsomely crafted sequel to the 1982 sci-fi classic opened surprisingly weak at the North American box office. According to studio estimates Sunday, "2049" grossed \$31.5 million, a poor start for a movie that cost at least \$150 million to make.

The problem "Blade Runner 2049" ran into is clear from opening-weekend data. The audience was overwhelmingly male (71 percent) and over the age of 25 (86 percent). The movie, starring Ryan Gosling and Harrison Ford, simply failed to pull in moviegoers beyond fans of the 1982 original.

The opening was a blow most of all to Alcon Entertainment, the production company that split the film's cost with Sony Pictures. Warner Bros., which released the original and maintained rights for any follow-ups, distributed domestically. Sony released the film internationally, where it performed better with \$50.2 million in overseas ticket sales over the weekend.

The 20-year-old Alcon, backed by FedEx founder Fred Smith, has been behind some notable successes with Warner Bros. ("The Blind Side," "Prisoners.") But its blockbuster ambitions—which include flops like "Point Break" and "Transcendence"—have gone



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ryan Gosling, left, and Harrison Ford in a scene from "Blade Runner 2049." AP

rockier. Co-founder Andrew Kosove previously called the ambitious "Blade Runner 2049" "a chips-in-the-center-of-the-table exercise."

And Alcon—a 45 employee company—seemingly did everything right, turning in a glowingly reviewed film, directed by the sought-after Denis Villeneuve ("Arrival") and produced by Ridley Scott (who directed the original.) Audiences liked the movie, too, giving it an A- CinemaScore. Representatives for Alcon Entertainment didn't respond to messages Sunday.

"I'm disappointed we didn't have a larger result this weekend on behalf of the owners of the film, Alcon" said Jeff Goldstein, president of domestic distribution for Warner Bros. "We had bigger expectations for the weekend. The tracking and the advance sales indicated that there would be a stronger number."

The Kate Winslet-Idris Elba adventure romance "The Mountain Between Us" debuted in second place with \$10.1 million. The 20th Century Fox film, which cost \$35 million to make, chronicles the

budding affection between two strangers whose charter plane crash lands in the mountains.

The horror hit "It" followed in third place with \$9.7 million in its fifth week. The Stephen King adaptation has made \$603.7 million worldwide.

"My Little Pony: The Movie" opened with \$8.8 million for Lionsgate. But even if it managed broader gender appeal than "Blade Runner 2049," it drew a 59 percent female audience.

But most were wondering what went wrong with "Blade Runner 2049." Working against

it was a lengthy 163-minute runtime. (Villeneuve attempted to lessen the blow by promoting the credit-less runtime of 152 minutes.) Alcon took the lead on the marketing, which went to great lengths to keep much of the film mysterious.

"It's an intellectually charged, apocalyptic sci-fi story. It's not a 'Close Encounters,' it's not 'Star Wars.' It's a challenging film. To me, those are the best type of films," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at comScore. "But does it make it the most commercial? No."

"It was creatively and thematically perfectly executed," Dergarabedian said. "But it didn't play to the numbers everyone thought."

In a way, that makes "Blade Runner 2049" the perfect heir to the original film. It, too, was a box-office disappointment. Though a cult would gradually emerge over the years, propelled partly by a DVD release of a more acclaimed director's cut, "Blade Runner" in 1982 debuted with \$6.2 million—or about \$16 million in 2017 dollars.

So "2049" can claim one thing many recent sequels can't: Better box office than the original.

1. **"Blade Runner 2049,"** \$31.5 million (\$50.2 million international).
2. **"The Mountain Between Us,"** \$10.1 million (\$3.6 million international).
3. **"It,"** \$9.7 million.
4. **"My Little Pony: The Movie,"** \$8.8 million (\$3.8 million international).
5. **"Kingsman: The Golden Circle,"** \$8.1 million (\$25.5 million international).
6. **"American Made,"** \$8.1 million (\$1.8 million international).
7. **"The Lego Ninjago Movie,"** \$6.8 million (\$6.9 million international).
8. **"Victoria & Abdul,"** \$4.1 million (\$3 million international).
9. **"Flatliners,"** \$3.8 million (\$1.5 million international.)
10. **"Battle of the Sexes,"** \$2.4 million.

Many in country music mum over gun issues after Vegas deaths

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—When singer Meghan Linsey first started her country duo Steel Magnolia, a partnership with the National Rifle Association was suggested as a way to grow their audience.

The proposal, which she refused, was a commonplace example of how intertwined gun ownership is with country music.

The mass shooting on the final day of Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas has emboldened some country musicians to call for gun control, even as many others declined to weigh in. Plenty of artists avoid the issue because there's a real risk of backlash as gun lobbyists have bolstered a connection between the patriotic themes found in country music to gun ownership in recent years.

"I just feel like you're so censored as a country artist," said Linsey, an independent musician who took a knee after singing the national anthem at an NFL football game. "I feel like the labels like to keep you that way. They don't want you to speak out. They don't want you to say things that would upset

country music listeners."

She added: "People worry about being Dixie Chick-ed."

The Dixie Chicks still loom large as a lesson in country music politics. The hugely popular group was boycotted after lead singer Natalie Maines criticized then-President George W. Bush on the eve of the Iraq War in 2003.

The National Rifle Association has further strengthened the relationship between guns and country music with its lifestyle and music brand called NRA Country. NRA Country has sought to tie the music to gun-linked activities like hunting or outdoor sports, but without mention of political issues.

Since about 2010, the NRA Country brand has been placed on country music tours and concerts, merchandise, an album called "This Is NRA Country," a music video and more. It features performers such as Hank Williams Jr. and Trace Adkins. It's unclear how much the NRA has spent on the brand, and representatives of the group did not respond to requests for information from The Associated Press.

Country duo Big & Rich, who have performed at NRA-sponsored events, were at the festival just hours before Stephen Paddock began firing from his room at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino. They said it wasn't the weapons that were the problem, but the man using them.

"I think if a man has ill will in his heart, then there's weapons everywhere," Big Kenny said. "I mean he can pick up a — anything — make a bomb, put it in his shoe. We have somebody trying to blow up stuff on trains constantly."

The shooting changed the mind of Caleb Keeter, a guitarist for the Josh Abbott Band, who was among those at the festival during the attack. He wrote in a widely shared tweet that he had been a lifelong Second Amendment supporter: "I cannot express how wrong I was."

Keeter said that a single man laid waste to a city because of "access to an insane amount of firepower." Paddock had 23 guns in his room, some of which had attachments that allow a semi-au-

tomatic rifle to mimic a fully automatic weapon.

Others, including Jennifer Nettles of the band Sugarland and Sheryl Crow, have joined the call for gun control.

But there are risks.

When country artists have in the past tried to wade into gun politics, it can turn into a no-win situation.

Tim McGraw had to defend his participation in a benefit concert for victims of a mass shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut after criticism from gun rights advocates. His opening act, Billy Currington, pulled out of the performance over the controversy.

"As a gun owner, I support gun ownership, I also believe that with gun ownership comes the responsibility of education and safety—most certainly when it relates to what we value most, our children," McGraw said in a statement in 2015. "I can't imagine anyone who disagrees with that."

Many artists expressed grief over the Las Vegas killings without wading into politics. Alongside her husband Vince



In this June 10, 2015, file photo, Meghan Linsey arrives at the CMT Music Awards at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. AP

Gill, Amy Grant led a prayer at a vigil in Nashville on Monday, a day after the shooting, while Maren Morris released a song called "Dear Hate," in which she but declares "love conquers all." Eric Church angrily said "no amount of bullets" was going to take away his memories of those fans killed, before debuting a song written in memory of the victims called "Why Not Me."

John Osborne of the duo Brothers Osborne was in tears on national radio talking about the deaths of fans who they considered family. Keith Urban struggled to talk about the shooting to his 9-year-old daughter. Jason Aldean, who was on stage at the festival

when the shooter opened fire, said, "This world is becoming the kind of place I am afraid to raise my children in." Many others have donated to funds set up to help the victims and countless other selfless acts have brought the community even closer to support one another.

Singer Rosanne Cash, a longtime gun control advocate, called on the country music community to do more in an op-ed in the New York Times.

"It is no longer enough to separate yourself quietly," Cash wrote. "The laws the N.R.A. would pass are a threat to you, your fans, and to the concerts and festivals we enjoy."

Family and 'Star Trek' co-stars pay tribute to Anton Yelchin

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A statue of Anton Yelchin has been unveiled at a service honoring the late actor's life that was attended by Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence and several of his collaborators in the "Star Trek" franchise.

Zoe Saldana spoke of her "Star Trek" co-star during the service Sunday, which was also attended by "Star Trek" co-star Simon Pegg and director J.J. Abrams. Saldana and other speakers, including Yelchin's parents, addressed

guests next to several pictures of the actor showing him as a baby, a young boy, and from his film career.

Other celebrity guests included actors Emile Hirsch and Jon Voight, and directors Drake Doremus and Jeremy Saulnier.

The bronze statue of Yelchin was unveiled at the "Life Celebration" event and is now open for public viewing in the cemetery's Garden of Legends. It was created by sculptor Nick Marra and FX artist Greg



Guests gather beneath a mural of the late actor Anton Yelchin created by fans at a "Star Trek" convention, during a life celebration and statue unveiling for Yelchin at Hollywood Forever Cemetery on Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, in Los Angeles. AP

James Woods says his retirement announcement was a mistake

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Oscar-nominated actor James Woods says his career is not going to end in a real estate announcement.



"didn't hear 'retirement.'"

Woods is known for his conservative political views and has said that's made it tough to find work in Hollywood.

Gammons had said the decision wasn't political.

A press release of Woods' Rhode Island lake house for sale had included news he was retiring. But Woods tells The Washington Post last week's announcement was a mistake.

The 70-year-old Woods says his real estate agent, Allen Gammons, had read him a draft of the release but he

Nicotero. A mural of Yelchin created by fans at a "Star Trek" con-

vention was also on display at the service at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

Yelchin was killed in June 2016 at age 27 when he was pinned by his sport utility

vehicle after it rolled down the driveway of his Los Angeles home.

UK police free driver in museum car crash; inquiry continues

LONDON (AP) — London police on Sunday released a 47-year-old man arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving after a car crash outside the Natural History Museum injured 11 people.

Police said the man was released "under investigation." He has not been charged or identified.

London's "museum row" was open for business as usual

Sunday, with the Natural History Museum, Science Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum operating as usual one day after pandemonium broke out after a car struck pedestrians.

The crash Saturday afternoon on Exhibition Road in London's busy museum district was initially feared to be a possible attack similar to incidents earlier this year

when extremists in vehicles struck pedestrians on Westminster Bridge and on London Bridge.

The March attack on Westminster Bridge and Parliament and the London Bridge attack in June claimed more than a dozen lives and wounded many more. New barriers have been placed on most major bridges to deter future vehicle assaults.

The concern that a similar attack was in progress outside the Natural History Museum sparked a substantial police response to the car crash, with numerous ambulances sent to the scene along with a hazardous area response team. Shops were evacuated as a precaution and police helicopters buzzed overhead.

Police said after several hours of investigation that it was a road traffic collision not related to terrorism.

Metropolitan Police detec-

tive Darren Case said the collision raised fears because of where it occurred and because of the number of pedestrians involved.

"I fully appreciate the concern and alarm this incident caused," he said.

He said none of the head and leg injuries turned out to be serious and that most of the nine people who had been hospitalized have been discharged.

Police are asking witnesses, and anyone with photographs or video of the incident, to get in touch to help the inquiry.

The museum area is a busy traffic zone and in there is sometimes confusion over which streets are open to motorists. Police haven't explained how the crash happened.

Britain's official terrorist threat level is set at "severe" indicating an attack is judged to be highly likely.

Sam Smith announces 'The Thrill of It All' details 2018 tour

Sam Smith's highly anticipated follow-up to his Grammy-winning debut arrives next month.

Titled "The Thrill of It All," the new album will drop Nov. 3.

Opening with his comeback single "Too Good at Goodbyes," the 10-track record sees Smith working with longtime collaborator and friend Jimmy Napes as well as widening his

palette and drafting Malay, Stargate, Jason "Poo Bear" Boyd and, probably most surprising, Timbaland.

The British crooner also revealed the first dates of what will be a lengthy world tour in support of the new record.

The tour, which is named after the album, opens June 18 in Toronto and includes a two-night stint at Staples Center on Aug. 28-29 before

wrapping in Calgary, Canada, on Sept. 13.

To mark the announcement, Smith also shared the album's closing track, "Pray."

Produced by Timbaland, the gospel-tinged track is a stirring number about searching for hope. Those who pre-ordered the album on streaming services got their hands on the track today.

"I lift up my head and the

world is on fire / There's dread in my heart and fear in my bones / And I just don't know what to say," he sings. "Maybe I'll pray."

Tickets for the North American run go on sale Oct. 12, with a special pre-sale for fans on the singer's website.

Each ticket purchased will come with a physical copy of Smith's new album. (*Los Angeles Times*)

Man's devotion to his family leaves girlfriend feeling lonely

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I just moved in together. We have been a couple for seven years. Until now, we have lived with our parents.

I knew moving in would be a struggle for him because he's very close to his four siblings. Now that we've moved in, he calls and video chats with them every day, visits twice a week or more and has sleepovers. He also leaves work early to take his siblings on field trips or attend their sports events.

I'm finding it very frustrating being alone all the time. I have talked to him and expressed my feelings about the amount of time he spends with his family. In my opinion, it's excessive, especially since neither of his parents works.

He asked me to give him time to adjust, but it has already been a month. This is the man I want to marry one day, but I can't help but feel like I'm never put first. Please help!

CONFOUNDED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CONFOUNDED: You and your boyfriend have been living together a grand total of one month. This is a period of adjustment for BOTH of you. It's unrealistic to expect your boyfriend—who appears to be tightly bound to his parents and siblings—to instantly focus all his attention on you.

My advice, and I hope you will heed it, is to devote time to your own interests and activities so you won't be so dependent on him. Give it six months. If things haven't resolved in that amount of time, write me again.

DEAR ABBY: I am single, 33, and have two kids. I have dipped my toe in the dating pool without success. I am not lonely, but I find myself wanting a relationship.

When I tried dating websites, I got a mixed bag of colorful characters. When I do find someone I'm interested in, it fizzles out quickly.

We start out by messaging on the site, then we text each other. The problem I am having is that these men don't ask "get to know you" questions or keep up a conversation at all. If I don't text first or keep the conversation going, there's no communication at all. All of them state they want a relationship, but they don't put forth the effort. I'm not sure what the problem is.

Every time this happens, I forget about dating for a while, but it happens again and again. Have any sage advice for me?

LOOKING IN NEBRASKA

DEAR LOOKING: You say you are messaging back and forth. After a few days of conversation, have you suggested getting together for a coffee date? It might provide an op-

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

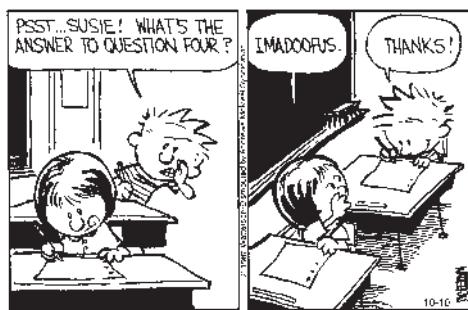
portunity to find out more about these men. If you have done that and encountered resistance, it might suggest you are coming on too strong or they aren't quite as ready as they have advertised.

Because there is so much distraction and so much choice in online dating, perhaps you should consider meeting men the old-fashioned way — through friends, relatives or social groups. Meeting someone special when one least expects it has been known to happen.

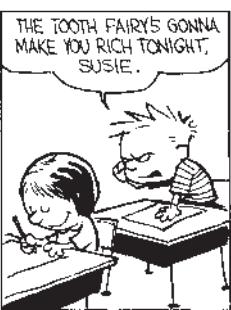
Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

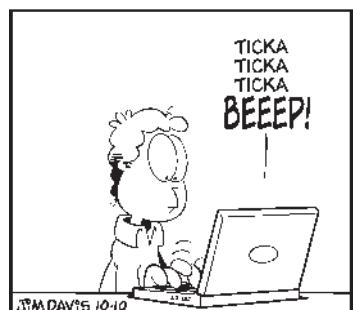
Calvin and Hobbes



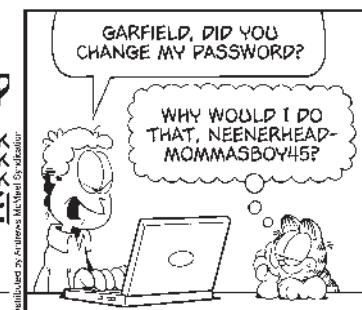
By Bill Waterson



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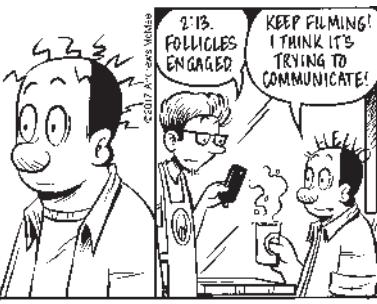
By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

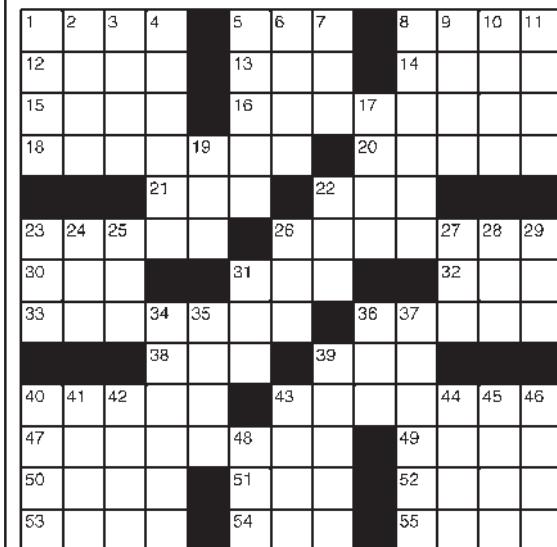


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS | 38 | Veto | 2 | Engine | 19 | Comic |
|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|---------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 IRS em- ployees | 39 | Sit-up | 3 | noise | 20 | DeLuise |
| 5 TV | 40 | Clinch | 4 | Bullets | 22 | Assoc. |
| watchdog | 43 | Trimmed | 5 | Breeds, | 23 | 300, to |
| org. | | a photo | 6 | salmon | 24 | Cato |
| 8 Hood- wink | 47 | Goal- post | 7 | Diamond | 25 | "Ben—" |
| 12 Camel feature | 49 | part | 8 | side | 26 | Commotion |
| 13 Foot rub | 50 | Exception- tional | 9 | Half- mark | 27 | Beer |
| response | | suffix for | 10 | offering | 28 | container |
| 14 Slightly | | million | 11 | Come- dian | 29 | Family |
| 15 Cookbook | 51 | I love | 12 | Margaret | 30 | season |
| author | | (Lat.) | 13 | Sioux | 31 | 24 hours |
| Rom- bauer | 52 | Ms. | 14 | people | 32 | Gift |
| 16 Frontiers- man | 53 | Brock- ovich | 15 | Modern | 33 | holder |
| Davy | | Ticked | 16 | taxi | 34 | Gratuitous |
| 18 Teeming | 54 | (off) | 17 | alternative | 35 | "Game of |
| with people | | Kitten's | 18 | "Troy" | 36 | Thrones" |
| 20 Heart line | 55 | cry | 19 | actor | 37 | airer |
| 21 "— so fast!" | | Tibetan | 20 | Brad | 38 | Fish- eating |
| 22 Choose | | herd | 21 | Jazzy | 39 | hawk |
| 23 Deep | | | 22 | James | 40 | Cupid's |
| gorge | | | 23 | Mafia | 41 | missile |
| 26 Emulated | | | 24 | boss | 42 | Ella's |
| a frog | | | 25 | | 43 | style |
| 30 Cow's | | | 26 | | 44 | Canal of |
| chaw | | | 27 | | 45 | song |
| 31 Purse | | | 28 | | 46 | Had on |
| 32 "Give — | | | 29 | | 47 | Showed |
| whirl!" | | | 30 | | 48 | up |
| 33 Salad | | | 31 | | 49 | Law firm |
| ingredient | | | 32 | | 50 | aided, for |
| 36 Sweet- heart | | | 33 | | 51 | short |
| | | | 34 | | 52 | Composer |
| | | | 35 | | 53 | Satie |
| | | | 36 | | 54 | EAST |
| | | | 37 | | 55 | BAG |
| | | | 38 | | 56 | ECOL |
| | | | 39 | | 57 | LAIR |
| | | | 40 | | 58 | "Kapow!" |
| | | | 41 | | 59 | |
| | | | 42 | | 60 | |
| | | | 43 | | 61 | |
| | | | 44 | | 62 | |
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| | | | 48 | | 66 | |
| | | | 49 | | 67 | |
| | | | 50 | | 68 | |
| | | | 51 | | 69 | |
| | | | 52 | | 70 | |
| | | | 53 | | 71 | |

Yesterday's answer 10-10



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Dale Earnhardt Jr., 43; Mario Lopez, 44; Wendi McLendon-Covey, 48; Bradley Whitford, 58.

Happy Birthday: Experience will help guide you in the right direction. Refuse to let anxiety and emotional relationships stand between you and your success. Search for opportunities that allow you to expand your skills, interests and future prospects. Intelligence will be the key to outmaneuvering any competition you meet along the way. Take better care of your health. Your numbers are 6, 11, 18, 22, 28, 39, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do your best to get along with others. You won't make progress if you are impatient, critical. Find common ground and work toward a solution that will please all. Change is required, but it doesn't have to disrupt your life completely. ☀☀☀

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional matters will surface if you cannot agree on how joint monies should be spent. Don't get upset when finding a workable solution is required to solve any issues. Take better care of your health. ☀☀

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There will be trouble if you can't get along with someone you deal with daily. Channel your energy and your emotions into love, compassion and being kind, mindful and helpful to others. Give and take will be necessary. ☀☀

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at your options and consider who is and who isn't a good influence. Choosing wisely when it comes to your friends and associates will make a huge difference to how you make out today. Don't be afraid to say "no." ☀☀☀

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Host an event or take it upon yourself to get involved in a cause that you believe in. Your intelligence and foresight will bring about change that will influence your reputation, position and future. Embrace life and live in the moment. ☀☀☀

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't mix business with pleasure. Emotional matters will cloud your vision, making it difficult to make good decisions or take care of your responsibilities properly. Shake off any negativity coming your way and focus on your job. ☀☀

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Learn as you go. Keeping an open mind will help you gain greater perspective on the situations you come up against. Let past experiences help you make wise choices when it comes to friendships, partnerships and personal improvements. ☀☀☀

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't get talked into buying something or making physical changes that will cost you more than you can afford. Keep your money, possessions and private information a secret. Avoid getting into a vulnerable position. Choose your words wisely. ☀☀

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will be difficult to contain. Work-related matters will need to be addressed if you want to accomplish your goals. Listen carefully to suggestions and complaints and choose positive alternatives that will help you avoid discord. ☀☀

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stay calm and avoid making contractual, medical or legal changes from an emotional point of view. Settle any differences you have only when the time is right for you. Practically and moderation are encouraged. ☀☀

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep the peace and offer unity and reassurance when it comes to how you handle joint ventures, health and family matters. Intelligence coupled with a sound objective will ensure that you move forward in a positive manner. ☀☀☀

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems concerning your home, partnerships and those you live with can be expected. Take a peaceful approach to dealing with such matters, but don't feel the need to give in to unreasonable demands in order to keep the peace. ☀☀

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining, intuitive and curious. You are academic and reasonable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

EUGENIA LAST

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | | | | | | | |
| | 9 | 1 | | 5 | | | | |
| 7 | | | 6 | | 3 | | | |
| | 3 | 1 | | 9 | | | | |
| 5 | 7 | | 3 | | 2 | 8 | | |
| | 2 | | 5 | | 6 | | | |
| 9 | 8 | | | | | 1 | | |
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 |

Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 7 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 2 |
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★

10/10

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW FIREWORKS GET THEIR COLORS

Solution: 9 letters

M W I P U R P L E T I N G I C
O A N E N E R G Y H U E S H E
D V C A S W H I T E S T A R S
U E R N S O D I U M S R E R U
L L E E E H E A T R G T I K F
E E D S L S B L U E T A I U D
S N I T A E I B B A D N E E E
K G E H E L A U C I D L M R L
R T N

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High School graduate or equivalent with 5 years work experience. Must be honest and trustworthy. Works flexible hours. \$7.05/hour

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ROBERT TENORIO TORRESAttorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749Attorney for Petitioner: Natividad P. Macaranas
Aka Darlene P. Macaranas**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**) Civil Action No. 17-0239
IN THE MATTER) NOTICE OF HEARING ON
OF THE ESTATE OF:) PETITION TO PROBATE
RICHARD IGLECIAS) WILL AND NOTICE TO
MACARANAS) CREDITORS
Decedent) Date: November 9, 2017
Decedent) Time: 9:00 a.m.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HERIS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE RICHARD IGLECIAS MACARANAS OR OF HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Natividad P. Macaranas aka Darlene P. Macaranas of Saipan, CNMI ("Petitioner"), has petitioned the Superior Court of Richard Iglesias Macaranas, Decedent, the attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Esq., whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petitioner to Probate Will by Natividad P. Macaranas aka Darlene P. Macaranas, as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on November 9, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guana Hustisa, Civic Center, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested person or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to ROBERTENORIO TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 4th day of October, 2017.
/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

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Saipan Tribune
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JVA#17-011: Marketing Manager

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WHATZIT Solution: Hopping mad

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|-----------|---------|-----------------------------|
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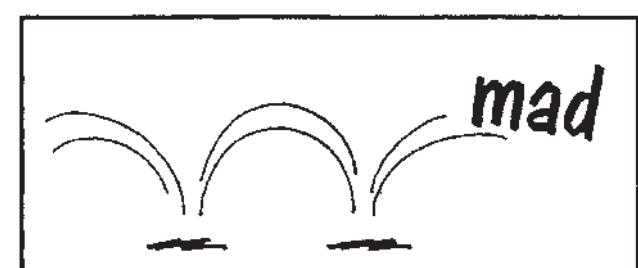
Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in classified section

Red Sox beat Astros, avoid elimination

BOSTON (AP)—Hanley Ramirez waved a “Believe in Boston” flag during pregame introductions, drawing cheers from a Fenway Park crowd fearful of a second straight postseason sweep.

Then he gave the Red Sox exactly what they wished for: more October baseball.

“I just tried to wake everybody up,” Ramirez said after delivering four hits and three RBI to lead the AL East champions to a 10-3 victory over the Houston Astros in Game 3 of the AL Division Series on Sunday.

“I think that’s my job: Find a way to come through in big situations,” the designated hitter said. “It’s the playoffs. It’s go time.”

David Price pitched four scoreless innings after another Boston starter faltered, and 20-year-old Rafael Devers hit the go-ahead homer to help the Red Sox snap a five-game postseason losing streak.

Mitch Moreland had three of Boston’s 15 hits—matching its combined total from Games 1 and 2, a pair of 8-2 losses. Jackie Bradley Jr. hit his first postseason homer, a three-run shot in a six-run seventh that put the game away.

Game 4 of the best-of-five series is Monday in Boston. First pitch will be at 1:08 p.m.—it would have been moved to 7:08 p.m. if Cleveland had finished its ALDS sweep of the Yankees later Sunday.

Houston right-hander Charlie Morton will start against reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello.

Rain is in the forecast.

“We’ve been watching The Weather Channel for a couple of months now,” said Astros manager A.J. Hinch, whose team was forced to play a home series in Tampa Bay in August when Hurricane Harvey flooded Houston. “So that’s not unusual for us.”

Carlos Correa homered for the Astros as they took a first-inning lead for the third straight game. Up 3-0 with two on and one out in the second, Houston chased Doug Fister and Joe Kelly retired George Springer before Josh Reddick hit a long fly ball to right field that Mookie Betts caught at the top of the short wall to end the inning.

“It would have been a great spot for us to get another three runs and big momentum for us. And that seemed to be big momentum for those guys,” Reddick said. “They come up after that and they take the lead. So I just wish the park was a little bit shorter.”

Kelly pitched the third, and



Houston Astros' Josh Reddick (22) reaches first on an infield single before the throw reaches Boston Red Sox first baseman Mitch Moreland, left, during the fifth inning of Game 3 of baseball's American League Division Series, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, in Boston. AP

Cubs manager Maddon pondering changes against Scherzer

CHICAGO (AP)—Cubs manager Joe Maddon added some off-day intrigue to the National League Division Series by hinting he might play musical chairs with his lineup against Washington right-hander Max Scherzer for their pivotal Game 3.

“I’m leaning toward that right now,” Maddon said after arranging breakfast on the field for his players during Sunday morning’s practice. “I mean, he’s just so oppressively difficult versus right-handed hitters, I thought it might be wise to get one more lefty out there.”

Maddon didn’t specify which left-handed bat he had in mind, or even where he might slot it. But he had talked about making the move

before Stephen Strasburg was named Washington’s Game 1 starter over Scherzer, who got a couple extra days of rest after tweaking his right hamstring in his final regular-season start.

Game 3 of the deadlocked series already promised plenty of intrigue after a supersized two-run homer by Bryce Harper in the eighth inning Saturday breathed new life into a Washington lineup that had produced just four hits in the previous 15 innings. Ryan Zimmerman added a tiebreaking three-run homer later that same inning to complete the Nationals’ U-turn.

If Monday’s battle for momentum in the best-of-five series wasn’t tantaliz-

ing enough, there were also lingering questions about Scherzer’s readiness and how Cubs left-hander Jose Quintana—who came over from the cross-town White Sox in mid-July—would handle his first appearance in the playoff spotlight.

“I feel I’ve done everything I can to put the strength in the leg,” Scherzer said.

“There’s really no secret to this. If I can execute pitches and keep the ball off the middle of the plate, I know I can have success. But if I make mistakes,” he added, “I know they can take me deep.”

While Scherzer was focused on getting the physical component of his game dialed in, Maddon was contemplating changes to his lineup for

the matchup with the two-time Cy Young Award winner.

He wouldn’t say where he would use the left-handed bat, though he noted the leadoff spot “had been a revolving door all year.” Maddon also didn’t say which of his regular position players he might sit, though second baseman Javier Baez is 0-for-6 career with three strikeouts against Scherzer.

Could the lefty surprise be reserve infielder Tommy La Stella, who is 3 for 6 (homer, triple, double) against Scherzer, or rookie Ian Happ, a switch hitter who also can play second? How about veteran John Jay, who has played all over the outfield?

Or maybe none of the above?

then Price scattered four hits and a walk while throwing 57 pitches in his longest outing since July. Since going to the bullpen in September after missing most of the season with elbow problems, Price has made seven straight scoreless appearances.

“He’s a machine. He’s a competitor. And when he’s on the mound he’s going to give everything he has,” Ramirez said. “That’s him. That’s his attitude. And that’s why he’s here.”

Astros starter Brad Peacock

escaped the second inning with a 3-1 lead despite loading the bases with nobody out, but he ran into bigger trouble in the third.

After Peacock struck out Boston’s No. 3 and 4 hitters, Andrew Benintendi and Betts, Moreland doubled and scored on Ramirez’s line drive over left fielder Marwin Gonzalez’s outstretched glove. Francisco Liriano gave up Devers’ two-run homer to right that gave Boston a 4-3 lead -- its first in 44 postseason innings dating to Game 1 of the 2016 ALDS.

Peacock allowed three runs and six hits in 2 2/3 innings. Liriano got just one out while allowing one run and two hits for the Astros, who have never swept a postseason series.

Devers, who turns 21 on Oct. 24, is the youngest Red Sox player to homer in the postseason and one of only six players in major league history to hit a postseason home run before their 21st birthday.

The others: Mickey Mantle, Andrei Jones, Miguel Cabrera, Manny Machado and Bryce Harper.

Ramirez, who was on the bench to start Game 1, drove in two more runs with a seventh-inning double before Bradley’s homer bounced off Reddick’s glove and into the stands behind the Pesky Pole.

“You like any player that is willing to step up and speak and then back it up,” Red Sox manager John Farrell said, noting that Ramirez vowed Saturday that the team would not be swept in two straight years. “He had that energy. It was fantastic. He had a big day.”

Houston reliever Lance

McCullers took a hard comebacker off his ankle in the fourth, but needed only one warmup pitch to test it and stay in the game.

Tanaka, Judge save Yankees

In New York, Masahiro Tanaka’s seven-inning gem was saved when Aaron Judge prevented a home run in right field, and Greg Bird homered to give the New York Yankees a 1-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians in Game 3 on Sunday night, extending their AL Division Series.

Aroldis Chapman got a five-out save as New York avoided a three-game sweep by the defending AL champions. With two on in the ninth, Chapman struck out cleanup hitter and former Reds teammate Jay Bruce, and Carlos Santana flied out to center.

The Yankees got a splendid performance from Tanaka in an old-fashioned October pitching duel with Cleveland starter Carlos Carrasco. Tanaka got a boost when Judge robbed Francisco Lindor of a two-run homer in the sixth.

Bird came through with the huge hit New York had to have when he connected against loser Andrew Miller in the seventh.

New York rebounded from a bruising loss Friday in Game 2 that led to heavy criticism of manager Joe Girardi, booed Sunday night by the home crowd during pregame introductions.

Game 4 is Monday night at Yankee Stadium, with young ace Luis Severino scheduled to start for New York. Cleveland might go with Game 1 winner Trevor Bauer on three days’ rest.

Cleveland had won six straight ALDS games, one shy of the 2009-11 Yankees for the best such streak ever.

This was the Yankees’ first 1-0 postseason victory since Game 3 of their 2001 ALDS against Oakland, when Derek Jeter’s backhanded flip beat Jeremy Giambi to the plate for a crucial, memorable out.

Judge’s grab was the big defensive play Sunday. With a runner on first in a scoreless game, Lindor lofted a sixth-inning drive toward the short right-field porch at Yankee Stadium. Judge backed up to the wall with his 6-foot-7 frame and barely needed to jump to extend his glove above the fence and make the catch, just to the right of the auxiliary scoreboard.

The sellout crowd of 48,614 roared and Judge flashed a bright smile. It was the first time the rookie had robbed an opponent of a home run and the first time Lindor had ever been so denied, according to ESPN Stats & Info.

Rodgers lifts Packers over Cowboys in another thriller



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—

Aaron Rodgers threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Davante Adams with 11 seconds remaining, lifting Green Bay over the Dallas Cowboys 35-31 on Sunday in another thriller nine months after the Packers' divisional playoff victory on the same field.

Rodgers capped a 75-yard drive in just 1:02, going toward the same end zone as in the playoff game.

Adams, active 10 days after leaving the field on a stretcher on a helmet-to-helmet hit that resulted in a suspension for Chicago linebacker Danny Trevathan, had seven catches for 66 yards and two touchdowns.

Dak Prescott had given Cowboys the lead on an 11-yard touchdown run with 1:13 remaining to cap a 17-play drive that lasted almost nine minutes. Dallas (2-3) has already matched the number of losses from the magical rookie

Deshawn Watson's 48-yard

season for Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott.

Colts 26, 49ers 23, OT

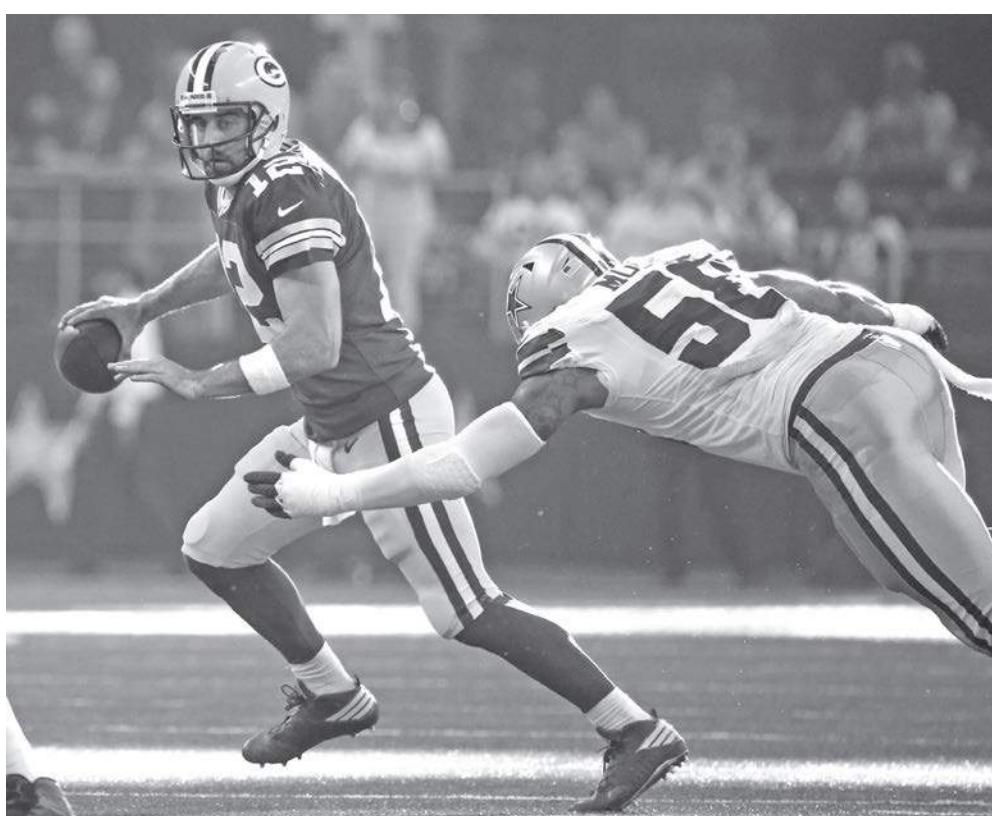
In Indianapolis, after blowing a 14-point lead in the final eight minutes or regulation and surviving an interception in scoring position in overtime, Marlon Mack's 35-yard run set up Adam Vinatieri for a 51-yard field goal as the Indianapolis Colts beat the San Francisco 49ers.

Vinatieri made four field goals to move into second on the NFL's career list, one ahead of Gary Anderson (538). Mack and Jacoby Brissett each scored on TD runs for the Colts (2-3), who have won both games against winless teams.

Chiefs 42, Texans 34

In Houston, Alex Smith threw for 324 yards and three touchdowns to help Kansas City remain undefeated in a game where Houston star J.J. Watt broke his left leg.

Deshawn Watson's 48-yard



AP
Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) scrambles away from Dallas Cowboys defensive end Damontre Moore (58) in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2017, in Arlington, Texas.

stay in the fourth quarter.

Jets 17, Browns 14

In Cleveland, Josh McCown came back to Cleveland and beat the team that cut him, throwing two touchdown passes and leading the surprising Jets over the winless Browns, who benched rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer and fell to 1-20 under coach Hue Jackson.

McCown went 1-10 in two seasons as a starter for the Browns, who released him on Feb. 7 in a cost-cutting move. The 38-year-old wasn't seeking revenge, but he got it with two second-half scoring tosses.

Ravens 30, Raiders 17

In Oakland, Joe Flacco hit Mike Wallace on two deep passes to spark Baltimore's struggling offense, and the Ravens got a fumble return for a touchdown by Jimmy Smith to beat short-handed Oakland.

Flacco had struggled to get the ball downfield in losing the past two weeks. He changed that on the opening drive of the game for the Ravens (3-2) when he connected on a 52-yard pass to Wallace.

Bengals 20, Bills 16

In Cincinnati, A.J. Green had a hand in three turnovers that kept it close, but the receiver also pulled off a 77-yard touchdown and another long catch that set up a score.

After losing their first three games, the Bengals (2-3) have salvaged their season by getting the ball to their playmakers at decisive moments. Green's 47-yard catch set up a 5-yard touchdown run by Joe Mixon that put Cincinnati ahead to

the Andes—always a trial for visiting teams.

There is some good news for Argentina: it has fate in its own hands.

If it wins, it is guaranteed at least a playoff with New Zealand, and that result might also yield an automatic berth. Even a draw could get an automatic berth—but only if Colombia beats Peru, Paraguay fails to beat Venezuela, and Chile loses to Brazil by at least two goals. A draw could also yield a playoff for Argentina.

A loss even leaves the door slightly ajar for a playoff spot. For that to happen, Paraguay must fail to beat Venezuela, and Peru must lose to Colombia by a larger margin than the margin of Argentina's loss.

Pence leaves NFL game after players protest during anthem

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Vice President Mike Pence left the 49ers-Colts game after about a dozen San Francisco players took a knee during the national anthem Sunday, the latest move by President Donald Trump's administration to clash with NFL players over patriotism and public demonstrations.

The former Indiana governor flew in so he could watch Peyton Manning's jersey retirement ceremony. Pence didn't stick around long.

Right around kickoff, Pence wrote on Twitter: "I left today's Colts game because (at)POTUS and I will not dignify any event that disrespects our soldiers, our Flag, or our National Anthem."

The White House also issued a statement from Pence, in which he said Americans should rally around the flag. Pence said: "I don't think it's too much to ask NFL players to respect the Flag and our National Anthem."

Trump has called on NFL owners to fire players who don't stand for the anthem and urged fans to boycott games in a series of tweets after he first criticized the demonstrations during a Sept. 22 rally in Alabama. White House officials have viewed it as a winning issue for the president, who has sought to remain closely connected to his working-

class base of Midwestern voters who helped elect him.

After Pence's walkout, Trump tweeted: "I asked (at) VP Pence to leave stadium if any players kneeled, disrespecting our country. I am proud of him and (at)SecondLady Karen." The tweet raised the question of whether Pence's actions had been planned in advance.

Cowboys will not play if they disrespect flag
In Arlington, Dallas owner Jerry Jones said the NFL can't leave the impression that it tolerates players disrespecting the flag and that any of his Cowboys making such displays won't play.

Jones had his strongest comments so far on the anthem controversy Sunday night. They started with his response to a question about Vice President Mike Pence leaving the game in Indianapolis after about a dozen San Francisco players knelt during the anthem.

"I know this, we cannot ... in the NFL in any way give the implication that we tolerate disrespecting the flag," Jones, also the team's general manager.

"We know that there is a serious debate in this country about those issues, but there is no question in my mind that the National Football League and the Dallas Cowboys are going to stand up for the flag. So we're clear."

Chargers 27, Giants 22

In East Rutherford, Philip Rivers threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Melvin Gordon with 2:58 to play and the Chargers rallied to beat the Giants in a game worthy of two teams that started the season 0-4.

The touchdown pass was Rivers' third of the game and came three plays after Kyle Emanuel had a sack, forced fumble and recovery against Eli Manning at the Giants 11-yard line. It also came four plays after Odell Beckham Jr. hurt an ankle and became the fourth Giants receiver knocked out of the game.

Jaguars 31, Steelers 9

In Pittsburgh, Telvin Smith

Argentina may miss World Cup

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—Get out the calculators. It's number-crunching time for Argentina and six other South American countries still vying for places in next year's World Cup in Russia.

Argentina is in danger of missing its first World Cup since 1970—almost a half-century ago.

This would mean no Lionel Messi to drive television ratings; no Messi to spur ticket sales for local organizers; no Messi to distract from off-field controversies surrounding the world-governing body, FIFA.

The top four teams in South America advance automatically, and the fifth-place team has the chance to advance from a

touchdown pass got the Texans within six early in the fourth quarter before Smith extended the lead for Kansas City (5-0) to 32-20 on a 10-yard pass to De'Anthony Thomas with about 9 minutes left. Tyreek Hill padded the lead when he returned a punt 82 yards for a touchdown.

Jacksonville (3-2) beat the Steelers for the first time in a decade by relying heavily on the NFL's top-ranked pass defense. The Jaguars picked off Roethlisberger five times in all and sacked him twice.

Eagles 34, Cardinals 7

In Philadelphia, Carson Wentz threw a career-best four touchdown passes and the Eagles continued their impressive start.

Wentz tossed three scoring passes in the first quarter, including 59 yards to Torrey Smith, 11 yards to Zach Ertz and 15 yards to Trey Burton.

Dolphins 16, Titans 10

In Miami, Jay Cutler finally silenced the boobirds with a fourth-quarter touchdown pass, and the Dolphins overcame another dismal offensive showing.

The jeers started in the first quarter of the Dolphins' home

playoff next month against New Zealand, the representative of Oceania.

Brazil has already qualified with 38 points. Uruguay is next with 28 and is widely expected to

FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018

qualify. That leaves five teams with varying prospects: Chile (26), Colombia (26), Peru (25), Argentina (25), and Paraguay (24).

Tuesday's matches will all start at the same time: Ecuador-Argentina, Brazil-Chile, Peru-Colombia, Paraguay-Venezuela, and Uruguay-Bolivia.

If teams are tied on points, the tie-breakers in order are: overall goal difference; overall goals scored; points in matches be-

tween tied teams; goal difference in matches between tied teams; goals scored in matches between tied teams; away goals scored in matches between tied teams; "fair play points" based on yellow and red cards.

And if that won't solve it, get set for the drawing of lots.

Argentina has scored only one goal in its last four matches. Coach Jorge Sampaoli has excluded team veteran Gonzalo Higuain and has tried all kinds of forward combinations with Messi: Paulo Dybala, Mauro Icardi, Dario Benedetto, and Alejandro Gomez.

Nothing has worked so far. Argentina faces Ecuador in the thin air of Quito, located at 2,850 meters (9,350 feet) in

Oleai field improvements begin



JON PEREZ
The dirt at the Oleai Sports Complex field has already been tilled, while the hammer throw area will be replaced in time for two major sporting events that Saipan will be hosting.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Improvements at the center field of the Oleai track have begun last week as personnel and equipment from a government agency and a private company started plowing the land.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Agriculture loaned a tiller to Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's groundskeeper crew who are working on the field to lay new grass. Laolao's crew will also level the field to make it

more playable and minimize injuries to athletes/teams that will be using the facility for practices or regular games.

Work on the field is expected to last for more than a month and will be completed on or before December this year. The Northern Marianas Sports Association is also waiting for the track's Level II certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations.

The field improvements are among the projects planned by Northern Marianas Sports



Association to prepare the Oleai Sports Complex for next year's Micronesian Athletics Championships and the

2021 Pacific Mini Games that Saipan will be hosting. Other projects include fixing the cage for the hammer throw event, putting up a higher chain-link fence, installing a net at the fence near Beach Road, adding or installing new lights, and extending the grandstands at the track oval.

The hammer throw area was

from Oct. 31 to Nov. 8.

"We've been practicing together for about a year and we will continue to work on our teamwork, skills, and tactics as we know we will be up against tough teams in Australia. Our focus after the Marianas Cup will be the AFC tournament," team captain Ryan Relucio said during a send-off ceremony for the Teen Ayuyus last Friday.

Relucio started out for the CNMI in their game against the Guam All-Stars and was with goalie Chris Aninzo, Anthony Fruit, Alex Park, Euly James Ermitanio, Hark Joshua Galarion, Louie Calayag, Sunjoon Tenorio, Joshua De Leon,

and Mareko Tekopua. Assistant coach Jonathan Takano called the shots for the Teen Ayuyus in absence of head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita, who was off-island for official business.

As for the Guam side, Mendiola was joined on the starting 11 by goalie Sean Evans, Nichika Fermin, Eddie Huang, Takumi Ito, Clayton Mitchell, Noah Duenas, Joshua Calvo, Takumi Odell, Jordan Jasmin, and Seung Min Kim. Mark Chugualaf coached the Guam All-Stars, while Kimberly Sherman was the team manager.

Ken Viray, who drilled 28 points in their 91-71 rout of Gold Ballers last Saturday, caught fire anew, recording 39 points in their close victory. Viray's guns were blazing in the second half where he scored all but one of his 30-plus markers. He was held to a free throw in the opening quarter that ended with Ridhors hanging on to a 21-18 lead, before going scoreless in the second half which finished with Empe Light stealing the upper hand, 40-36.

The Ridhors prolific scorer then sizzled for 19 points in the third period, however Sean Rabasto and Sonny Lorio also knocked in multiple baskets to offset Viray's production and increase Empe Light's advantage, 68-60, going into the payoff canto.

Despite his fruitless efforts in the third quarter, Viray kept going in the fourth and this

time successfully brought Ridhors back into the game to extend their winning run to four while handing Empe Light its third loss in four matches.

Saturday Game

White Haus 89—Barbo 23, Tabora 19, Mateo 16, Nonato 15, Ocampo 10, Quizon 6.

Batang Bear Brand 75—Gamboa 22, Esdrelon 16, Spott 16, Ariar 8, Devero 6, Achas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-22, 43-42, 68-59, 89-75.

Sunday Game

Tropang Ridhors 94—Viray 39, Guiab 26, Morales 13, Surima 7, Dayrit 5, Fernandez 4.

Empe Light 91—Lorio 23, Rabasto 20, Tengco 16, Gunnacao 9, Gallardo 8, Leung 4, Peredo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 21-18, 36-40, 60-68, 94-91.

TEEN

From Page 28

cuses and instead have to work hard and play to the best of our ability. The team is upset about the result. We wanted the win, but unfortunately we fell short so we have to work much harder and play with more passion," Zapanta added.

The greater desire to play to their full potential should be seen in the Teen Ayuyus' next mission—the AFC U19 Championship 2018 Qualifiers—as they will be up against powerhouse Australia, the tenacious North Korea, and the persistent Hong Kong. The Group J qualifier will be held in Australia

WHITE

From Page 28

one field goal apiece in the penultimate frame.

Then in the fourth canto, Jun Tabora took over from Barbo to give White Haus an even bigger advantage en route to a 14-point winning margin. Tabora dropped 12 of his 19 points in the payoff period.

Barbo top-scored for White Haus with his 23 markers, while Nate Mateo, Arjay Nonato, and Alex Ocampo also broke into double figures with 16, 15, and 10, respectively. Ronnel Gamboa had 22 markers on a losing effort for BBB, while Elmer Esdrelon and Hal Spott chipped in 16 apiece.

Meanwhile, in the first game last Sunday, Tropang Ridhors is still unbeaten in four matches following a 94-91 triumph over Empe Light.

Sister teams clash in Tuesday League Bud Cup title match

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sister teams Chow Time-Blue Haus Destroyers and Chow Time Assassins will clash for the Saipan Billiards Association Tuesday League's Budweiser Cup after dispatching separate semis opponents in different venues last week.



The Destroyers and Assassins escaped with similar 9-8 wins with the final Partner's 8-Ball event deciding the outcomes of both matches.

Nolan Cultura and Gian Flores delivered for the Destroyers in the deciding game after besting Senen Pangilinan and Jerry Soriano of the 9 Eleven-Docomo Hustlers, while Julian Reyes and Randy Sablan did the same against Niel Ayson and Victor Formales in the Assassins-Crazy 8 match.

The Destroyers-Assassins

final match will be played tonight, while losing teams 9 Eleven-Docomo Hustlers and Tasha's Crazy 8 vie for the third place honors.

In the Thursday League, the 9 Eleven Titans II scored a 9-7 upset over regular season champions MJD Warriors to lead three other teams to the semifinals.

The Titans will be facing the Chow Time 8 Black Ball, a 9-7 winner over Tasha's Wild Bills in the first Final Four pairing, while the 9 Eleven Jam Shooters cruised to a 9-2 decision against the Sands Team SCS. The Jam Shooters will take on the Chow Time-Blue Haus Homeboyz in the other semis matchup after the latter dispatched Tasha's Extreme, 9-2.

The semis will be played on Oct. 12, Thursday, with the winners advancing to the Oct. 19 finals.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Chow Time Assassins will be facing sister team Chow Time-Blue Haus Destroyers in tonight's finals for the SBA Tuesday League's Budweiser Cup.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|-----|
| East | | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
| Buffalo | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 89 | 74 |
| N.Y. Jets | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 92 | 106 |
| New England | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 148 | 142 |
| Miami | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 41 | 67 |

| South | | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
|--------------|---|---|---|------|-----|-----|
| Jacksonville | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 139 | 83 |
| Houston | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 144 | 130 |
| Tennessee | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 110 | 142 |
| Indianapolis | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 97 | 159 |

| North | | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
|------------|---|---|---|------|----|-----|
| Pittsburgh | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 99 | 89 |
| Baltimore | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 90 | 97 |
| Cincinnati | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 84 | 83 |
| Cleveland | 0 | 5 | 0 | .000 | 77 | 124 |

| West | | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|-----|-----|
| Kansas City | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 164 | 111 |
| Denver | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 98 | 74 |
| Oakland | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 108 | 109 |
| L.A. Chargers | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 99 | 115 |

| NATIONAL CONFERENCE | | W | L | Pct | PF | PA | |
|---------------------|--------------|---|---|------|------|-----|----|
| East | Philadelphia | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 137 | 99 |
| Washington | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 91 | 89 | |
| Dallas | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 125 | 132 | |
| N.Y. Giants | 0 | 5 | 0 | .000 | 82 | 122 | |

| South | | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
|-------------|---|---|---|------|-----|----|
| Carolina | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 105 | 94 |
| Atlanta | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 104 | 89 |
| New Orleans | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 93 | 78 |
| Tampa Bay | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 85 | 83 |

| North | | W | L | Pct | PF | PA |
|-----------|---|---|---|------|-----|-----|
| Green Bay | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 137 | 112 |
| Detroit | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 123 | 97 |
| Minnesota | 2 | 2 | 0 | .500 | 79 | 76 |
| Chicago | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 61 | 104 |

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2017 Bike and Run for Cure Prostrate and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Commonwealth Cancer Association program manager Juan L. Babauta, right, poses with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, second right, Dr. Ken Pierson, left, and T Galleria's Ben Babauta at the conclusion of the 2017 Bike and Run for Cure Prostrate and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.



Youth cyclist Wynne Brillo crosses the finish line of the 40-kilometer bike ride.



JC Ferrer slows down after crossing the finish line.



Make-A-Wish Foundation CNMI board member Kanae Quinn, right, leads two other cyclists as they cross the finish line.



Nap Dizon smiles as he nears the finish line.



CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta, left, and Make-A-Wish Foundation CNMI board member Kanae Quinn pose with the event's banner.



Two cyclists prepare to cross the finish line together.



Participants of the bike portion of last Saturday's event pose for a group photo after completing the 40K ride from American Memorial Park to Banzai Cliff.



Red Sox beat
Astros, avoid
elimination

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28 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Peleliu moved closer to clinching the 2017 Belau Men's Masters Softball League pennant after completing a 19-12 triumph over the S.A. Masters in last Sunday's quadruple-header at the Dandan Softball Field.

Peleliu ended the regular season with a 14-2 record and hopes that former leader Brotherhood loses its final game against the Papa Bears this Sunday to secure the pennant. A win by Brotherhood against Papa Bears would force a sudden-death match for the pennant.

Peleliu blasted seven home runs with George David, Brel



Kodep, and Mabel Ngirngemelas each connecting twice, and Dominic Remeliik having a solo shot in the sixth inning to give the team a four-run lead.

David also had two runs and two RBIs after going 2-for-4 at the plate, while Kodep went 3-for-4, touching home thrice and posting six RBIs. Ngirngemelas and Remeliik combined for 4-for-8, four runs, and five RBIs.

Jeff Sablan belted two homers for the Masters with Phil Celis, Mike Sablan, and Ralph

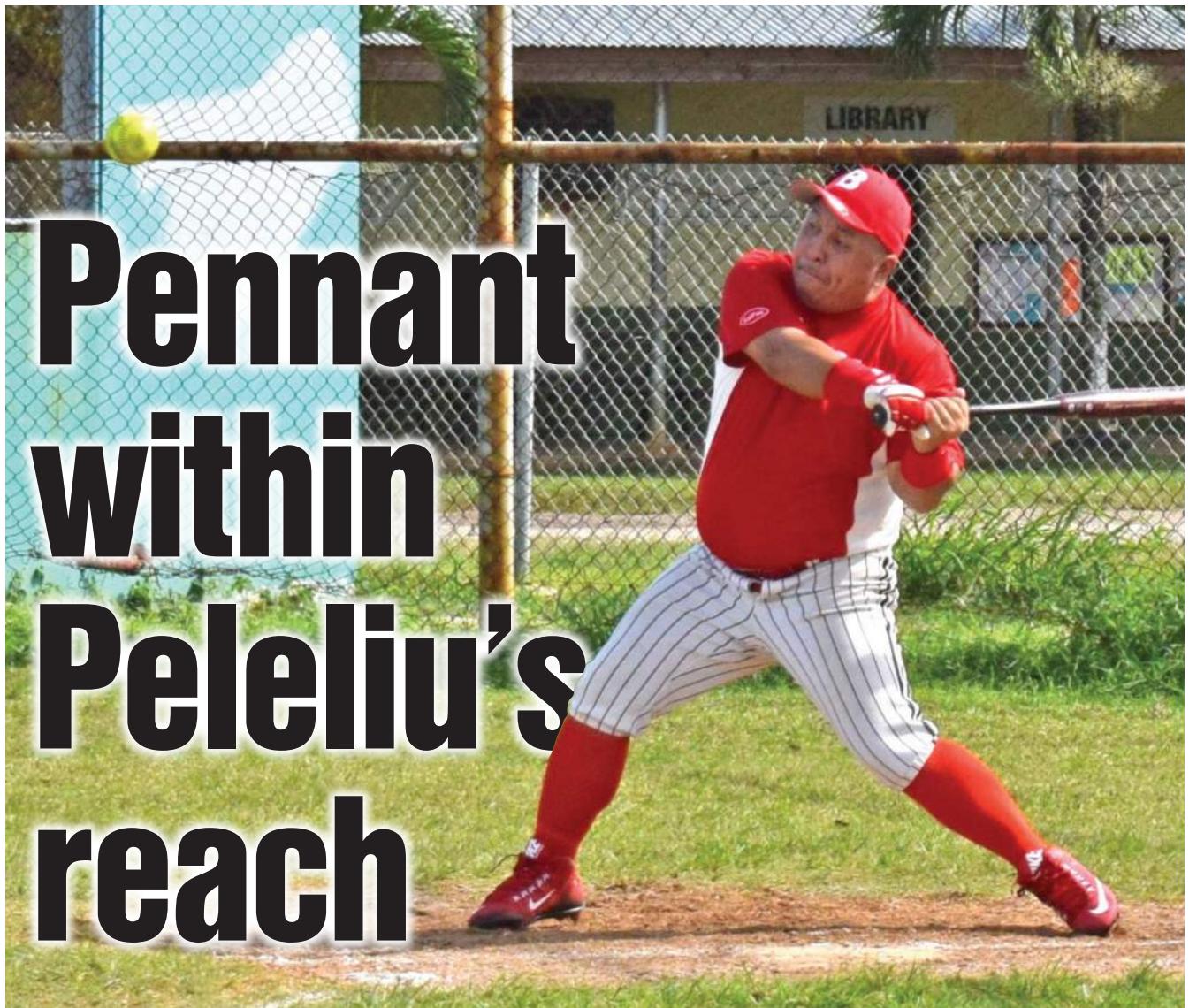
Saipan Tribune Sports

Rodgers lifts
Packers over
Cowboys in
another thriller

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



JON PEREZ
Sufa's Derron Flores swings for a single against Karui during their game in the 2017 Belau Men's Masters Softball League last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field. He later scored the game-winning run in their 14-13 victory in extra inning.

melas and Remeliik combined for 4-for-8, four runs, and five RBIs.

Jeff Sablan belted two homers for the Masters with Phil Celis, Mike Sablan, and Ralph

Yumul adding one apiece. Jeff Sablan also went 4-for-4 with two runs and five RBIs, while Mike Sablan, 2-for-4, scored twice and had two RBIs. Phil Celis had a run and two RBIs

after batting 2-for-4.

**Sufa 14, Karui 13,
8 innings**

Ed Santos had a walk-off double as Sufa pulled off an upset

against the fourth-ranked Karui with Derron Flores scoring the winning run.

Sufa finished the elimina-

See PENNANT on Page 26

White Haus hands BBB first loss



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

White Haus' Arjay Nonato, left, reaches in for the ball, while Sialencer's Amor Zapata steps closer on defense during an earlier game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. White Haus played last Saturday and defeated Batang Bear Brand, 89-75.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

White Haus derailed Batang Bear Brand on its way to a third straight win after coasting to an 89-75 victory in their game in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

White Haus shot better in the second half to improve to an even 2-2 record in the



IT&E-sponsored league and hand BBB its first loss in three matches.

Ahead by only a hair at the end of the first half, 43-42, White Haus got more breathing room in the third quarter, 68-59, behind the 10 points of Darwin Barbo. The White Haus big man also drew enough support from his teammates with four of them making at least

See WHITE on Page 26

Teen Ayuyus back to drawing board

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team will regroup and focus on the next tournament after the close loss to the Guam All-Stars in the Marianas Cup 2017 last Sunday at the Guam

Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

"This game gave us a hard lesson and it was an emotional loss for the team. Now, we will continue to gel the team dynamics to work as a



unit in preparation for the AFC U19 qualifiers. Back to training when we get back home," Teen Ayuyus team manager Ruselle Zapanta said a few hours after Guam's 1-0 victory against the CNMI

last weekend.

Devan Mendiola broke the visiting squad's heart when he scored the winning goal in the 52nd minute. Before Mendiola's dagger, the Teen Ayuyus' defense repeatedly foiled the hosts' attempts to score. On offense, the CNMI crew had its fair share of possessions and opportunities to hit the board, making the match anybody's ballgame.

"Our rivalry with Guam is strong and it is a bitter feeling to lose to them. We win as a team and we go down as a team. We can't make any ex-

See TEEN on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the CNMI Boys U18 National Team listen to the instructions of their coaches during a training session last Saturday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.